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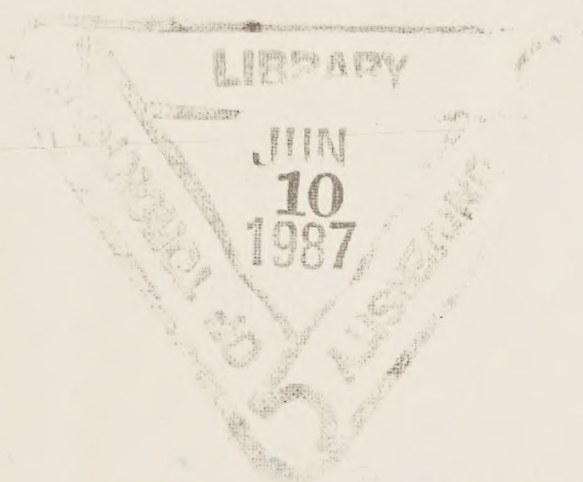
Ontario

No. 15

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**

Thursday, May 15, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 15, 1986

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS TAX-FREE GASOLINE

Mr. Villeneuve moved resolution 33:

That in the opinion of this House the government should permit the use of tax-free gasoline and fuel by farm commercial vehicles licensed in Ontario under the Highway Traffic Act, as lower farm input costs will benefit both producer and consumer and high agricultural input costs lessen the producers' ability to compete with subsidized foreign imports.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be the first speaker in private members' hour of this new session of the Legislature under the new rules in the time selected for private members' business.

In a way, I was hoping the budget earlier this week would steal some of my thunder and adopt the proposal I am making today. I was hoping it would provide confidence to the agricultural community and to farmers, who are currently completing spring seeding in the hope of simply managing to break even. That is not a very wonderful thought.

I remind this House that the prices of December grains, as of yesterday, were as follows: wheat at \$2.90 a bushel, corn at \$2 a bushel, oats at \$1.25 a bushel and soybeans at \$5.40 a bushel. Those are basically the prices of 10 years ago. It disappoints me that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), who is a grain farmer, forgot to address this very grave situation in his budget. He chose literally to ignore this yet much-needed benefit, and I will have to carry on with my resolution because it is needed by the agricultural community. I still hope we may be able to change the Treasurer's mind on this issue and on others involving support and confidence in the field of agriculture and for farmers.

I am glad to have this opportunity to say a few words about my resolution, which hopes to address one aspect of Ontario's deep farm financial crisis. At the start, I want to emphasize that the proposal I am making will bring us into

line with farm fuel provisions in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and will still leave us well behind the fuel rebate system available to farmers in Alberta, where there is absolutely no tax on gasoline. As a quick illustration, Alberta farmers are paying 22.3 cents per litre less than Ontario farmers to run their trucks, and the situation is similar in Saskatchewan.

Farmers in the Maritimes continue to pay taxes on farm vehicles, but with the exception of New Brunswick, these are ad valorem taxes; they are value added or value reduced taxes, which is the system we had in place at the time the new government took over. If that system were still in place, we would be paying two cents per litre less for petroleum products right now.

Ontario, Canada's largest producer of agricultural products, is the only major agricultural jurisdiction in the country to tax farmers at a high rate without compensation. Indeed, the budget reinstates a sales tax on heavy trucks. All farm produce is moved via trucks. When we consider that grain, livestock and dairy products all move from the farm to the primary market by truck, the Treasurer has made sure the costs of moving materials will go up quite considerably because of the reinstated sales tax of seven per cent on heavy trucks that is to occur at the beginning of 1987.

Currently, the tax is 8.3 cents per litre or about 37.7 cents per gallon on gasoline, and 9.9 cents per litre or about 45 cents per gallon on diesel fuel. This high level of taxation has remained in place even though fuel prices have otherwise fallen.

We are all aware of the debate on fuel prices that has gone on in this very chamber since last October. The party on this side, to which I belong, has pointed out repeatedly that the retention of the value added or value reduced tax, known as ad valorem, would have benefited all motor vehicle fuel users, including farmers. Second, it would have helped to alleviate the costs of moving farm produce from the farm or in the semi-processed state.

On the other side of the House, both the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) have found time to com-



plain about high fuel prices, although both have ignored the specific effect of the high cost on farmers. At the same time, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) has acknowledged that all agricultural producers, including the most efficient, are facing increasing financial hardship through equity loss and poor prices.

There is no doubt that in the past year the state of Ontario's agricultural industry has worsened and that the immediate future looks very bleak indeed. The rest of the economy is doing quite well. The Treasurer has admitted he will receive more than \$2 billion of additional revenue this year. The real figure may even be in the area of \$3 billion. Clearly, some of that windfall revenue—blue money, money that was allowed for and was well managed by the previous government in this province—is a windfall to the present government. Very little of it has found its way to assist a very basic industry in Ontario, that of agriculture.

This week's budget has no new programs for farmers. In fact, it has dropped one program. Yesterday one of my colleagues questioned the minister about where the money that he has now recycled three times was going. The minister got up and read a prepared statement that had absolutely nothing to do with the question.

Most of us in this House know that Ontario farmers often suffer because their products are being undercut by highly subsidized foreign products. The European Community in particular provides excessive production, storage and export subsidies. Canada is about to be caught as the United States begins to retaliate with its own subsidies.

**10:10 a.m.**

The Prime Minister of Canada is well aware of this problem and has made it a priority for the discussions under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The Minister of Agriculture and Food has begun to study it. The Treasurer, however, did not even mention the problem of European subsidies in his recent budget.

We know our producers are efficient, but today that factor is no longer enough when dealing on world markets. The Minister of Agriculture and Food can hand out all the airline tickets he wants to potential food exporters, but unless we can offer competitive prices for our products, we will not get the markets we need. I strongly support provincial offshore market development programs, which were first emphasized by the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) when he was minister.

However, I also believe we must tackle the problem from the cost side and try to reduce farm input costs. Lower input costs can be passed on to our food exports and would provide an advantageous shift in the price spread between a domestic farm product and an imported one. Unlike a marketing assistance program, lower input costs would benefit our own consumers, and Ontario's home-grown products would sell even better.

It is important to remember the effect this tax relief measure would have on millions of Ontario consumers, and in this case it would benefit all of us. But clearly we must deal specifically with the worsening conditions in agriculture in this province during the past year. Many farmers are facing Depression-like conditions, while many city folk are doing very well, thank you, with very little investment compared to what our rural friends in agriculture have.

In this budget the Treasurer admitted that the agricultural outlook remains bleak. His words to this House were, "With low commodity prices, the cash flow from farming operations is too often insufficient to service farm debt, and credit is increasingly difficult to obtain." In rural Ontario we have free-falling real estate values, with no end in sight and no bottom near. The recent budget has done nothing at all to alleviate that.

The members in this House with agricultural backgrounds do not have to be told how serious the farm financial situation is, but because there is a definite shortage of farmers in the Liberal and New Democratic Party caucuses, I want to give a quick indication of the serious condition of Ontario agriculture as it has been reported and is actually happening in recent months.

On December 30, 1985, the Windsor Star carried an article entitled "Farmers Face Bleak Year with Low Prices Forecast." It reported: "Farmers are coming off a year of bad prices, and more of the same is forecast for 1986.... Even in Essex and Kent counties, an area of fertile soils and bountiful crops," and excellent farmers, "farmers are going out of business or seriously wondering just how much longer they can hang on."

The same day, the Kitchener-Waterloo Record had an article entitled "Farmers Say 'Good Riddance' to 1985." That story said, "There's a full-blown depression under way in the local agricultural community, worse than anything since the 1930s." One month earlier, the writer of that column had stated: "The truth today is that a record number of farmers are going broke. The



wolves are real, and they're at the doors of thousands of farm family homes."

On April 10, 1986, the *Globe and Mail* ran a story entitled "Incomes Plunging for Ontario Farmers." This was a surprising article to see in the *Globe*, because it is well known in rural communities that Canada's national newspaper almost always ignores agricultural issues in Canada's largest agricultural producing province, right here in Ontario.

On January 8, 1986, the Brantford Expositor predicted, "Next Five Years Not Rosy for Farmers." In that article, University of Guelph agricultural economics professor George Brinkman was reported as telling farmers that being a good producer will not be good enough for farmers to survive the 1980s.

The London Free Press, reporting on George Brinkman's paper a month later, stated, "Low commodity prices, higher production costs, increasing debt and the shrinkage of equity through declining land prices have hit farmers hard."

On April 27, 1986, a Free Press column was headed as follows: "Many More Kent Farmers Expected to Go Broke." It spoke of high operating costs and low commodity prices.

These papers, as well as the *Financial Post*, the *Toronto Star*, the *Ottawa Citizen* and the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, have all reported on the financial difficulties of our farmers. Many of the stories have singled out the problems of high input costs and low commodity prices.

In proposing this resolution, I want to make the point that if we decide to help reduce farm input costs, fuel prices are one of the very largest farm input costs. We all realize that farm commercial vehicles should share in any fuel price benefits, and they really have not done so to this point.

There are, of course, a number of farm inputs that could be examined. In addition to fuel, farm chemicals, fertilizers and machinery can be listed as significant input costs. In fact, fertilizers and machinery expenses contribute more to farm operating expenses than do fuels. However, having said all that, I point out that the high levels of fuel tax in Ontario make fuel costs an obvious choice for some type of relief.

After the federal government's move last month to eliminate federal sales tax and excise taxes on fuel, I was sure the Treasurer would follow suit. It was a natural; his budget was coming up. Nothing happened. It simply widens the exemption that farmers receive for fuel taxes. It would go a long way to helping all producers

by reducing costs, and it would benefit everyone in Ontario, because the nine million residents of Ontario are all consumers.

There is considerable support and, indeed, considerable demand in the rural community for the province to do something about farm fuel prices. I believe the many petitions we have heard in this Legislature during the past couple of weeks demanding a reduction in the cost of fuel speak for themselves.

For example, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has urged action from the government on fuel taxes. The following is from the OFA's prebudget submission of May 12, 1986, to the Treasurer:

"Ontario producers are making every effort to reduce the cost of their product in the hope of improving their profit margin" and, in many cases, simply trying to break even. "They find it especially aggravating that one of their major input costs, fuel, is very heavily taxed" by both levels of government. "In January, 55.7 per cent of the average price of a litre of gasoline was due to...taxes.

"While producers appreciate that the provincial government provides a rebate on fuel used for farm," on-farm, "purposes, they remain concerned that the remaining tax is substantial. We urge the government to address the issue of high tax-induced fuel costs in the province of Ontario."

We also know that on the government side of this House, the member for Lambton (Mr. D. W. Smith) was quick to condemn the loss of a two-cent federal rebate last year. I quote the member for Lambton, who is in this House this morning. He said, "For some farmers, it will be the final blow driving them out of business." It will be interesting to see how he reacts now that we are talking about 8.3 cents a litre. He was quick to condemn Ottawa over two cents last year, but the federal government has now done its share with a reduction of 5.5 cents a litre. It is Ontario's turn, and it is long overdue.

Prior to the OFA submission, the 1986 annual meeting of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association passed a resolution urging an Ontario fuel tax rebate program similar to Alberta's. This was the first resolution in the OCA's resolution book and it received unanimous support.

On April 2, 1986, the North Bay Nugget reported that the Timiskaming Federation of Agriculture directors' meeting had called on the OFA to consider calling for tenders for the supply of farm fuel to all OFA members. Failing that, the Timiskaming federation has declared its



intention to explore the idea locally to get the best possible price for farmers.

I will now allow debate on this resolution, and I will take my remaining time at the end.

**10:20 a.m.**

**Mr. Ramsay:** I rise to speak in support of the resolution that is before us today. As a farmer, I have first-hand experience with the results of a resolution such as this and with the tax that has been placed upon farm fuels.

One area that has really been ignored when we have discussed the use of fuels on the farm is the fuel used in highway vehicles that farmers must have to go from one field to another, to transport produce and even to travel into town to buy supplies and parts. These are all business expenses and, up until now, they have not been accounted for as business expenses by the provincial government.

A full tax has been put upon this industry, and as the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) has said, it causes real trouble. The provincial tax of 8.3 cents may not seem like a lot of money to many people in this province, but it is a great expense if one is very highly involved and has an intensive operation that is dependent upon fuel. One way in which the provincial government can show its goodwill to the farming industry is by eliminating this tax on farm commercial vehicles.

It is interesting to note the amount of tax that is generated on a litre of fuel, if we price gasoline and fuel at what it was just a few months ago: 50 cents. The total tax on a 50-cent litre of fuel or gasoline is 14.7 cents; 8.3 cents is provincial money, and the other 6.4 cents is federal money.

We have seen a reduction in the federal tax on farm fuel. I am not clear—maybe the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry can help me—on whether that will be counted on farm commercial vehicle use or whether it will be just on farm use. I am not sure of the announced federal excise tax reduction on fuels. This hits the heart of the matter, because much of the fuel consumed by the farmer is off the farm. It is important that we recognize this, especially since we have an industry that is ailing at the moment.

It is particularly important now in that it becomes a mechanism that can be handled fairly readily by the provincial government. It is surely within its jurisdiction. I believe there are other powers within the province's jurisdiction, and I have brought up these concerns in the House to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) on the total cost of gasoline and the power he has. We have had great

debates about that. The minister has said he does not have the power to control or regulate. He admits that on some days, or the Premier does, but on other days he does not admit it. We have a fuzzy area there.

We are still going to try to see eliminated some of the differences which we think are unconscionable, such as the difference between unleaded and leaded gasoline. Experts have said there is no excuse for a three-cent or four-cent differential in some parts of the province between the two grades of gasoline. It is a very big problem for motorists in general but more specifically for farm fuel users, especially when we consider that leaded gas is a poison that we are spreading throughout the environment. That is wrong. We should be encouraging the elimination of the use of that fuel.

This is one area in which the government could act. As a first step, it should investigate the pricing of nonleaded gasoline to find out why it is so high in relation to leaded gasoline.

What we are talking about today is something that could be passed immediately and that the government could act upon. It would be an immediate break for the farmer and would be like putting cash into his hand.

I fully support this resolution. I also encourage the members of the House to support it. It is something that is needed out there. We should start to pay more attention to the farmers of this province.

**Mr. McKessock:** I am pleased to have the opportunity to respond to the honourable member's resolution that the government should permit the use of tax-free gasoline and fuel for farm commercial vehicles licensed in Ontario under the Highway Traffic Act.

As a farmer, I will accept resolutions proposing tax-free gasoline for my truck. These days a farmer will not look a gift horse in the mouth. However, the chances of getting tax-free gasoline and fuel for farm commercial vehicles are slim. The member could have come up with a resolution that would have been equally helpful to the farmers and more easily supported by both the government and the public.

Someone once said that the world is round so that we cannot see too far down the road. This resolution makes me think of that. The resolution needs a lot of thought, because it could easily be misused.

As it stands right now, both the government of Ontario and the federal government provide almost complete rebates for sales and excise taxes on fuel used by farmers for off-farm



vehicles. Gasoline used in farm vehicles by farmers is taxed at 8.3 cent per litre and is rebated at an amount of about \$8 million a year. Diesel fuel, taxed at 9.9 cents per litre, is tax-exempt when used in farm vehicles, and this amounts to a tax exemption of approximately \$20 million a year.

However, as the member points out in his resolution, gasoline used by the farmers in vehicles on public roads, such as the family car or trucks used to carry materials to and from the market, is taxable. Perhaps the member is pointing out that the hauling of produce to market is part of the farming business. I agree that he has a point. But to give farmers tax-free gasoline when using farm vehicles on public roads would put the farmer in a difficult position. I do not want to see the farmer put in a position where he is criticized or suspected by his city cousins of getting tax-free gasoline when he drives to Toronto in his truck for a visit on Sunday afternoon.

As the member knows, the gasoline tax for vehicles used on public roads applies to everyone in general. Exemptions and rebates are given for specific uses, such as farming, forestry and mining, but only for off-road use. Giving farmers a general exemption as a group would be difficult and expensive to enforce, would leave the farmer open to criticism and could cause commercial trucking operations to claim that farmers had an unfair advantage when hauling agricultural produce. As well, other producers in similar situations, such as foresters and miners, would feel they deserved a similar exemption.

One of the honourable member's main points seems to be that lifting the gasoline tax on farm commercial vehicles could somehow give the farmer an edge when competing with subsidized foreign imports. Although it is true that high agricultural input costs make it difficult for the farmer to compete on domestic and world markets, the tax rebate suggested by the member would have little effect on the farmers' ability to compete with subsidized foreign imports.

When it comes to subsidy, I would like to point out the well-known fact that Canada cannot afford to compete with the treasuries of the United States and the European Community. The US and EC farm sectors are about eight times as large as Canada's and feed 10 to 15 times as many people. Both the US and the EC receive vast subsidies on their farm products and can afford to sell at below the cost of production. I suggest that when competing with operations of that size, lifting the gasoline tax on farm

commercial vehicles will not have much impact on our farmers' ability to compete. We are thinking of more effective ways to help the farmer.

#### **10:30 a.m.**

I spent 10 years in the Legislature trying to get the government to do more for farmers. It is good to see that with the Liberal government now in power, things are getting better. The new Liberal government has increased the agricultural budget by 39 per cent since it took office. However, I feel the farmer will never get what he deserves until he takes production, marketing and pricing of his products into his own hands. By this, I mean the farmer must get his product into the supply management system.

I have two reasons for being a supporter of supply management. First, supply management would allow the farmer to get the price he deserves for his product. Second, it would allow us to maintain our present production or close to it. At present, the federal and provincial legislation is in place for farm commodity groups to take the appropriate action to bring in supply management. Both governments at this time are supportive of such action and would work with farm groups with considerable speed.

One of the first steps in this process is for the recognized farm commodity group to get the farmers' consent and then to ask the government to take the necessary action to bring in supply management. The milk, broiler and egg businesses are currently doing considerably better than the other sectors of the agricultural community because of their supply management setups. You cannot find a farmer under this system who disagrees with it. It amazes me why other farm products do not follow suit.

I agree there are problems with supply management, such as quota pricing, but I feel there are ways these can be corrected as well. I had a potato grower tell me the other day that Ontario now produces only 40 per cent of the potatoes that it did 20 years ago and that it produces only about 20 per cent of what it needs.

In the years gone by, other provinces and countries have expanded at the expense of Ontario. If we go to supply management, we will hold the production we have, once the quotas are in place. When bringing in supply management, we may lose a few exports in the red meat industry, but I believe it is only a matter of time before we lose these exports in any case. The US will not let us have an import-export advantage in red meat for long; it can produce just as cheaply as we can. The Americans may feel that our hogs



are a better product than their own at present, but I expect the US farmer of tomorrow will produce the products the consumer wants. The other countries that were once importers are now becoming exporters as well.

To conclude, it looks as if the Canadian livestock farmer will soon be producing for the Canadian consumer. The sooner he moves to supply management, the sooner he will hold his portion of this production.

I thank the House for the opportunity to respond to this resolution and to address issues that are and will continue to be crucial to our farming communities.

**Mr. Sheppard:** I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak for my colleague's resolution. Farmers in Ontario need a break. The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry has made an intelligent and straightforward suggestion. As a farmer, I support it; as a politician, it makes good sense.

In the great riding of Northumberland, this resolution would involve and benefit a vast majority of my constituents. Indeed, this resolution appears to simply follow the line of past legislation on behalf of Ontario farmers. It is the logical extension of policy that was already on the books.

It is obvious to everyone that the financial situation in agriculture must be a top-priority issue. Recently, the costs of many sorts of farming have risen faster than the general rate of inflation. This is also a time when the prices for commodities have declined in real terms, and yet energy continues to be one of the biggest items on the farm balance books.

Over the years, I have listened to many discussions in this House as well as in committee on ways to reduce the farm energy bill. Some have talked about alternative energy. We have talked about using farm waste to create natural gas. We have talked about using various forms of fuel alcohol. All these discussions have ended up with the same conclusion: Ontario farmers will continue to rely, for a large part, on conventional fuel. The research and technology is just not there at present to allow alternative fuel to be any more than a supplement to conventional fuel sources.

As I mentioned earlier, these discussions always lead us in a circle. That circle takes us back to the farmers' dependence on gasoline and diesel fuel. Previous administrations were wise enough to provide a break for farmers on the price of fuel for running farm equipment. This equipment, which is essential to every farmer, is

expensive enough to buy as it is, let alone the cost of fuel and maintenance. Modern farming cannot do without this equipment, and so we should provide a reduction in their fuel costs. The increased taxes on fuel in the fall budget hit the people who could least afford it.

Furthermore, all the member of this Legislature know that agricultural producers have no say in their costs of production, nor have they any say in what they receive for the product. Although farmers will accept any help they can get, members will probably find that most of them acknowledge that measures such as interest-rate breaks and loan guarantees are, at best, only ways to buy time.

The farming industry's reliance on borrowed money ensures that the debt will always be a central issue, but the answer for those who want to stay in business is not how to shed their obligations but how to meet them. We could assist them in meeting those obligations by allowing this resolution to be passed. This resolution is aimed at providing financial relief for nonroad farm vehicles such as the trucks that take goods to market. This could easily be called the transportation sector of farming, which is a significant cost on its own.

Since 1980, the provincial government has been actively encouraging the transportation industry to reduce its use of gasoline and diesel fuel. We have seen plans for pooling trucks, for improving truck efficiency and for providing alternative fuel. These ideas are most effective in urban areas and with owners of large fleets of vehicles. In rural areas, some of these ideas do work, but considerations such as distance, different needs and different markets prevent effective pooling operations in general. Alternative fuels are not easy to come by or as convenient.

Again we are led back to the beginning, and that is the farmers' dependence on fuel. As we are all aware, there is a growing concern over the price of gasoline in Ontario. No one can predict with any certainty the long-term price of gasoline, but any discussion of the price of gasoline avoids the central issue. That issue, once again, is that farmers are dependent on this fuel. At whatever level the price of gas is set, it continues to take a large chunk out of farm income.

These days it is even more important for farmers to have ready access to the city marketplace. Severe competition makes it all the more important for Ontario producers to get their product to market quickly, especially during the



all-important season from midsummer to early fall, when fresh fruit and vegetables are available. This results in many trips to the city food terminals and markets. It also results in more use of fuels by the farmers to ensure that produce is on the table when the consumers want it. Again we are inevitably drawn to the fact that Ontario farmers must rely to a great extent on fuel for their livelihood. Anything that helps ease the burden this dependence causes will be welcome in farming communities.

To my mind, my colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry had a good idea when he proposed tax-free gasoline and fuel for farm commercial vehicles. The mechanics for setting up this system should not be very difficult. It could be arranged that commercial farm vehicles with farm plates licensed in Ontario be given a special permit so that gas bar operators would know that tax was to be deducted from their gasoline bill. Or perhaps an average could be worked out by the farmer and an official of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, resulting in the farmer getting a cheque from Queen's Park giving him a reimbursement of tax paid for fuel.

**10:40 a.m.**

A system would have to be implemented, however, to ensure that the farmer's cash flow was not interrupted at a time of tight money. Taking into consideration the amount of the refund, farmers could apply for a tax rebate on a monthly or a bimonthly basis, as opposed to applying once a year. As I mentioned earlier, we have to realize that interest rates are a consideration. When one has to borrow money to obtain supplies, interest rates are an added expense for any business.

We need to provide all the help we can to keep the farming industry alive today. This would involve a fair amount of paperwork for the ministry and farmer alike, which is why I personally prefer the special permit idea.

A number of other approaches could be taken to turn this resolution into an effective cost-cutting measure for the farming communities in Ontario.

At a time when the government in its fall budget advanced funds to help farmers leave the land, I would hope that the members of this Legislature would give serious consideration to my colleague's resolution. Let us in every way we can help the farmers to survive instead of encouraging them to leave the land. Let us help the farmers to get their products to market cheaply, thereby helping the consumers to get the

best possible price for home-grown Ontario produce.

Lower farm input costs would definitely benefit both the producers and the consumers. If we are truly serious about promoting self-sufficiency in food, we should take a good look at this resolution and do what we can to make it official government policy.

I am proud to support this resolution for the benefit of all farmers in Ontario. I urge all members to support it.

**Mr. Hayes:** I rise in support of the resolution moved by the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, which would permit the use of tax-free gasoline and fuel by farm commercial vehicles licensed in Ontario under the Highway Traffic Act.

I support the resolution, but I believe it barely scratches the surface of today's problem in the agricultural industry. One of the biggest problems, and the main problem, is that the farmers are not paid a fair price for their commodity and their labour. If this were done, we would not be here today speaking about this kind of resolution.

Many of the farmers in my riding of Essex North and in Ontario in general have to work at off-farm jobs to hang on to what they have or to try to finance their farm operations. In my riding alone, I know of a large number of farmers who work in the auto industry, not because they love putting in another eight, 10 or 12 hours a day but because of the way the system works. They are not getting paid a fair share.

One does not have to be an economist to realize the effect it would have on our economy if the farmers were able to work full-time and not have to work at another job to supplement the farm operation.

When the agricultural industry is doing well, the whole economy will do well. This is why this government should put more emphasis on looking into and improving our agricultural industry. Too many family farms are being lost today. And it is not only that farms are being lost: Families are breaking up; people lose everything; they lose their own dignity.

We also have to look at another area. We always seem to be talking about finding money for the farmers and subsidies and grants. Farmers are proud. They do not want handouts. They want a fair price for what they do; they want a fair price for their commodities and their labour. Farmers are always faced with very high input costs. The prices of fertilizer, seeds and fuel continue to go up. At the same time, the farmers



do not know from one season to the next whether they will ever be able to recover their costs.

As I mentioned earlier, this bill only scratches the surface and is the least this government can do to help preserve family farms and take some of the burden off the farmers in Ontario. I was very surprised to hear the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) indicate that he was not particularly in favour of this bill. I repeat, it is probably the least thing we can do to take off some of the financial burden in that particular industry. I reiterate that I support this bill, and I hope we can move on with it as quickly as possible.

**Mr. D. W. Smith:** I too am pleased to take part in the debate on this resolution put forward by the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. In listening to the member as he spoke on this resolution, I know he has put a great deal of thought into it.

On the surface, I believe the proposal appears to be excellent and would assist in reducing the cost to the farmers. When we look around us, though, everything else seems to be going up. All the things we buy seem to be going up in price. I wonder whether asking for another handout is going to be the answer to our problem. Everyone else's cost of living is going up, and wages keep going up, but farmers' revenues keep going down.

I think we have to address this issue from another angle. We must consider that taxes are imposed on different products or services to help balance the different sectors of government and society. From time to time the government can give exemptions or rebates to aid a certain group or sector, thus giving that group encouragement and helping it over a certain difficult period. This concept has been used in the past, and I would have to say it has been quite successful in accomplishing the government's goal.

I also want to tell members that I have been in favour of assisting farmers, fishermen and the mining industry in this way on off-road use; I certainly stand behind that. The one thing I have never liked is the dye they put in fuel designated for off-road use. This has created a tremendous number of problems for the farmers. I know thousands of dollars have been spent to rectify what looks like a very small problem but becomes a major one for the person or individual who happens to own an expensive diesel engine. If we could get rid of the dye in the fuel, it might help.

**10:50 a.m.**

The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry is suggesting in his resolution that we

exempt the tax on farm commercial vehicles that are licensed. I can see that this will likely create problems with other people down the road. We have to work towards getting the price of our primary commodities higher; that is the first and foremost objective we should be trying to get across. That is necessary for a number of reasons, the main one being that not enough dollars are generated at the primary source to create profits to flow through the economic community and therefore enhance the social aspects of that community.

I am not saying the resolution of the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry is not an excellent thought, but I believe it may not go far enough to accomplish a great deal of value or help to the farming community. There needs to be more fundamental change to keep our economic system and our small communities thriving.

The farmers' cash flows with the banks are now based on high input costs, as they have been for the past number of years. In that time, however, we have had declining revenues on the other side of the ledger. Over time, this is going to create tremendous equity problems within the farming community. In fact, it has reached that point right now.

Quite frankly, in my own riding of Lambton we have a number of farmers who are almost coming to blows with the bankers. In past years when they went to the bank, they were able to get their operating loans; there had been no problems. However, it seems that this year all of a sudden they are running into problems.

We have to turn around the thinking of the public at large almost 180 degrees. I have heard people from different walks of life say, "The farmers are just asking for another handout," that we are doing so in this resolution and that we are always crying for more. I think the farming community has this economic system figured out, and all they are asking for is their costs of production plus a profit, the same as anyone else seems to be entitled to in our society.

I can safely say that during the past 35 years you could take some of our major commodities, especially the ones we export, and you would find that in possibly only three or four years have farmers actually received their costs of production plus a profit.

I agree with the member for Essex North (Mr. Hayes) when he says a lot of the farmers are working in plants or in heavy industry. They are not there because they want to do a double job.



They are there because they have to be to maintain their farms.

I want to mention a little article I noticed in the *Toronto Star* yesterday. It concerns the inquiry into the banks before Mr. Justice Estey. Claude Thomson stated that there were more banks in trouble to nearly the same degree as the Northland Bank and the Canadian Commercial Bank in western Canada, but he would not go on to say which they were or the numbers involved. He told the media he might have said too many things already.

I agree with the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. To turn this situation around in the farming community, yes, we would help the community to a small degree by voting in favour of his resolution, but I believe we have to turn around the thinking of the public at large. To make our economy work, to make our banks stronger and give them a better debt-asset ratio, we have to give our farmers increases in commodity prices. I agree with the member, but I think we have to go one step further.

I am pleased I was able to take part in the debate on this resolution. I have to support it, but I cannot put the government in an awkward position as well. I want to say to the people of Ontario, "We are not crying for more; we just have to have our costs to make the whole system work."

**Mr. Guindon:** In his budget, the Treasurer came out and admitted that agriculture was in trouble. Then he went on to provide nothing new for agriculture, except to cancel one program and to make trucks more expensive. My colleague and neighbour the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry has pointed out that these types of trucks are used to transport food and milk. As the cost of the trucks goes up, the cost charged the farmers for deliveries of milk will have to go up as well. This cost will, of course, be passed on to the consumers.

Instead of reducing costs to farmers, the budget is actually starting to make things worse for farmers. The budget gives agriculture a 13 per cent increase this year, but it is common knowledge that most of the increase will go for 1985 stabilization payments, which the government delayed making in the past fiscal year. There is nothing in the budget to help farmers reduce their input costs so they can make a profit. The Treasurer should accept this resolution and change the Gasoline Tax Act and the Fuel Tax Act to give farmers at least this bit of relief.

Today is the first chance we have to demonstrate that the budget let farmers down and that it

took the wrong approach in increasing farm costs. This House clearly showed it wants farm programs to increase input costs as well as the debt relief and interest rate issues. My riding is in the middle of the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. Many Cornwall residents work at providing services to the farmers of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and many others work in the area of food plants. These people stand to benefit indirectly by assistance to farmers on the input side. They will not benefit from the programs contained in the budget.

This government has put all its eggs in one basket in its farm programs. Everything now depends on interest rate relief and loan assistance. Even though the Treasurer recognized that farm prices were a real problem, he did nothing about them. This resolution by my colleague suggests that we look at input costs. This resolution suggests that we give a fuel tax break for farm trucks as a means of helping to reduce input costs.

My colleague was interviewed by the *Morrisburg Leader* on this resolution in its March 26 issue. There, he used the example that a farmer hauling wet corn to the elevator may get as little as five miles to the gallon under those conditions. This year, corn prices are dropping. If a farmer looks at the additional costs of moving that corn—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin):** Your time is up.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** I thank my colleagues the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay), the member for Grey, the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard), the member for Essex North, the member for Lambton and the member for Cornwall (Mr. Guindon) for participating in this debate.

It concerns me greatly when I hear the member for Grey in his defeatist attitude say he is worried about the farmer driving his pickup truck to Toronto with a farm licence on it on Sunday afternoon. I hope the member is not saying he is going to prevent this farmer from driving to town on Sunday if the farmer happens not to have any other vehicle. I have some problems with that.

**Mr. McKessock:** I do not want him to be criticized by his city cousins.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** City cousins should never complain when their mouths are full.

The Liberals want to keep farm land in agriculture, but they do not care about the farmers out there. That concerns me no end. We have the systems in place. First of all, we use coloured fuel for diesels. I agree with the member for Lambton; I would like to do away



with that because it causes problems, but it is there. We also have a rebate system for farm vehicles that do not have licence plates for rebate of the gasoline tax. At the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, we have a category for farm licence plates. All systems are in place.

I have a further point. During the recent debates on the topic of freer trade, much had been said about increasing United States protectionism and US countervailing. This resolution is not countervailable; it will not cause problems. Programs that are countervailable by the US are those that provide funds to producers of selected commodities in specific amounts and rates.

**11 a.m.**

I agree with members who say we are not going far enough. Of course we are not going far enough. Agriculture is in deep trouble, but this is a message. It is not a great amount of money, but it is a message that this Legislature recognizes the problem of input costs being faced by the agricultural community. It would send a message out that we now realize, appreciate and are starting to address the problems. Instead of simply handing out a rebate on interest and offering loan support, this would address all agriculture, not just those segments that are in trouble.

In conclusion, I hope I have been successful in showing that Ontario agriculture needs that positive step towards assisting in the cost of producing food, the food that the nine million people in this province consume and a lot of which is exported to markets that are difficult to obtain. I hope this House realizes that agriculture needs help and that the message we will be sending in a positive move on this motion will tell agriculture that the Legislature of Ontario knows and supports it.

**The Acting Speaker:** The time for this ballot item has expired.

#### WATER DIVERSION

Mr. Morin-Strom moved resolution 32:

That in the opinion of this House, recognizing that the water resources of both the Great Lakes basin and the James Bay basin are precious public resources, and recognizing the constitutional jurisdiction of Ontario to manage and protect its freshwater resources, and recognizing the Great Lakes charter to which Ontario is a signatory, and recognizing that Simon Reisman, Canada's chief trade negotiator has publicly stated that the GRAND Canal project could provide key leverage to negotiate a free trade deal with the United States, this House condemns any

attempt to link free trade with diversion of Ontario's water resources; that water resources cannot be part of any trade discussions with the United States, and that Ontario will not consent to any major diversion of its fresh water, now or in the future.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** I am very pleased this resolution has finally come up for debate. I hope there will be a vote with very strong support from all three parties. I feel this resolution is vitally important in the context of the free trade negotiations currently going on and of the fact that our chief trade negotiator, Simon Reisman, has been such a strong proponent for the negotiating of a major sale of Canada's water resources to the US as one of the factors that he thinks should be entered into in the negotiations with the US.

This issue came up last fall. It was at that time that I introduced this resolution. It was spurred more than anything else by a major article entitled, "Canada-United States Trade at the Crossroads, Options for Growth." This article came out in the autumn 1985 issue of the Canadian Business Review, a very respected business publication put out in our country. The author of the article is Simon Reisman.

This is a major seven-page article which goes into some depth on his fervent belief that a free trade deal would be good for Canada. However, most disturbing to me was the link he made between the need for a free trade agreement and the sale of Canadian water.

The subheading just above his name reads, "A comprehensive Canada-United States free trade agreement would be good for Canada, and Canadian water could be used to negotiate a deal." Under the highlights on the front page, it goes on to say: "The author proposes that the United States be offered access to Canadian water by converting James Bay from a salt-water body to a fresh-water lake by building a sea-level dyke across the mouth of the bay. The project is known as the GRAND Canal." I believe the word "GRAND" stands for great recycling and northern development; this was the acronym.

The article goes on to talk about free trade to some extent, but as well, it goes into some detail on Simon Reisman's thoughts on the GRAND Canal project and some description of this project. It includes quite a diagram, which lays out the whole concept.

The proposal envisions the building of a sea-level dike across the mouth of James Bay, which would create a fresh-water lake from what was previously a salt-water body. Simon Reisman



man proposes that the United States be offered access to this Canadian water through a system of canals, dams, pumping stations and underground water tunnels fed through the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence water basin. The water would then be distributed through an elaborate canal system of reservoirs, aqueducts, pumping stations and power plants. The new water would then reach water-deficient areas of Canada and the United States.

The James Bay water basin is a major water basin in Ontario. I am sure many members do not realize that the amount of water flowing into the James Bay basin is approximately double the water flow going into all of the Great Lakes system. The amounts of water we are talking about are absolutely incredible and would have a devastating effect on the water flows through the Great Lakes system.

The project proposes to move into Lake Huron a volume of fresh water equivalent to twice the flow of the current Great Lakes system. It would do this by pumping the water upstream to roughly the source of the Ottawa River and then, via the Ottawa River and across through the French River, into Georgian Bay.

From there the flow that now goes from Lake Michigan into Lake Huron would be reversed, and instead the water would flow back into Lake Michigan and from there out west. As well, the flow from Lake Superior would be essentially cut off going through the St. Marys River into Lake Huron, and it would be forced via canal to pumping stations out west through the western end of Lake Superior.

The project may appear to be a rather harebrained one, but it is being backed by a number of important interests in the Canadian business world, including the world's largest construction company, Bechtel, the Power Corp. of Ontario and the nuclear power industry in Canada, and it has been endorsed by Quebec's Premier, Robert Bourassa.

Concerning the GRAND Canal project, to quote directly from Simon Reisman, "The magnitude is five times that of the Apollo moon project, and the project will cost approximately \$100 billion and would take 10 years to construct and put into operation."

He goes on to say: "To me, most importantly, there would be bargaining leverage that Canada could exercise by virtue of owning this water and being in a position to control its use. I believe that this project could provide the key to a free trade agreement with the United States."

Very shortly after Mr. Reisman authored this article, he was named chief trade negotiator by Brian Mulroney. Of course, as we all know, we are just in the process now of beginning formal trade negotiations. It is vitally important that Ontario stand up for its interests in protecting its own water resource and protecting its long-term heritage, take a very strong stand and say that this issue is under Ontario provincial jurisdiction and we will never agree to a major diversion scheme of this sort.

#### **11:10 a.m.**

There has to be serious concern about the potential for a project such as this and about the support this project has within the federal government. The GRAND Canal project is getting support from Brian Mulroney as well. He has been quoted as saying he views with enthusiasm the prospect of getting Ottawa involved in looking further at this scheme. In recent months, the National Research Council has approved further funding for the GRAND Canal Co., which is looking at further studies towards the development of this project.

There are concerns, however, about why this has been greeted with enthusiasm by certain officials high up in our federal government. The scheme could well be a megadisaster in both an environmental and political sense. As an Environment Canada official, J. P. Bruce, pointed out at a conference held in Toronto, "There are severe environmental uncertainties associated with large-scale diversions."

Such diversions could alter the world's climate. Our north would become warmer, with our more populated south and the United States suffering drought. That is only a part of the environmental worry, but politics comes into it too. Drought could cause even more demand for our water. Which drought-stricken country would be entitled to meet its needs first? Would it be the US as the buyer or Canada as the seller?

If we were to dig this GRAND Canal, we might end up with little or no say in the matter. As Mr. Bruce states, "Once Canada allows large volumes of water to be exported, the diversions will probably be there in perpetuity." A \$100-billion pipeline to the US could not be simply shut off at will, particularly once those on the other end have become dependent on the water. We would no longer have control over our own water.

One of the serious issues here is whether the water is actually needed in the US. There are talks of shortages of water in the US Southwest, but the Americans could handle their impending



shortages by taking better care of their own supplies. The US Water Resources Council concluded in 1978, "There is no national water shortage problem now nor in the foreseeable future," but there could be pressure enough to go ahead with the diversion scheme if the US does not conserve more water.

The US has tried diversions within its borders, but it has been pointed out that the real effect of these projects has been to transfer income from one region to another. Vast sums of public money have been spent to provide cheap water for a number of western farmers, in many cases, huge, corporate agribusinesses.

The US Comptroller General studied six irrigation projects and found that what these customers paid for their water was less than 10 per cent of the water's cost. The US taxpayers were the ones who found themselves footing the bill for the rest of the cost.

If these relatively small irrigation projects make such little economic sense, why should anyone believe a transcontinental canal would be any better? If we were to build such a canal, could we really expect the US farmers to pay more than they have been paying in their own country? Who would end up paying the real cost of a Canadian diversion? Would it be the buyer or the seller?

One of the major concerns about this proposal for northerners has to be the means by which the energy will be provided to lift the water from the level of James Bay up to the height of the source of the Ottawa River. If one goes back to high-school physics, there is something called conservation of energy. The amount of energy required to lift the water is the same as the energy that is provided as the water falls. As we know, that means that to lift all this water flowing into James Bay, it has to be equivalent at least to all the potential hydro power that can be generated from all the rivers flowing into James Bay, only a portion of which have been developed to this point. That is why the energy component to this is the most critical part of the whole project, and the energy component obviously is greater than the hydro resources we have in all northern Ontario and northern Quebec.

As a result, the project would require the building of nuclear power plants along the canal at the various pumping stations as we lift the water from one man-made lake reservoir to another. We have quotes that indicate the energy for this proposal would come from Hydro-Québec power plants and from Ontario's nuclear plants.

Gilles Marinier, a former James Bay energy corporation vice-president, who is now closely associated with the project through another major construction company, The SNC Group of Montreal, has been quoted as saying, "One possibility would be to build nuclear stations along the canal." This has to be profoundly disturbing to residents throughout northern Ontario, particularly to our native population. I have received very strong support for this resolution from a number of northern native groups that are concerned about the possibility of nuclear power development in the north and, of course, a total disruption of their way of life around James Bay and along the proposed route for this canal system.

If nuclear power is used, this would present a danger to anyone living nearby. Also, the uranium required to make the fuel for the nuclear station would mean more uranium mining and an increased demand for uranium that can serve only to hurt people further. Cancer deaths, miscarriages, birth defects and the poisoning of the plants, birds and animals, air, earth and water have been well documented.

Finally, I would like to address again the question of whether large-scale water-diversion projects such as the GRAND Canal are really necessary. While certain regions in Canada and the United States are experiencing water shortages, it may be predicted that these local deficiencies will worsen in the years to come if present trends continue. However, these water shortages are largely the result of waste and mismanagement of local water sources. Another contributing factor is pollution, which makes large quantities of water useless, dangerous and unable ever to support life again.

The focus has to be on getting both Canadians and Americans, in particular, to clean up their act and to get their water usable, drinkable and into a state where their own current water sources could be used rather than having to drain off our pristine water now flowing into the James Bay area.

Massive water-diversion projects such as the Grand Canal are not necessary if people in the dominant society become conservers of water rather than wasters and polluters. Maybe it is time that the non-native people on this continent started to pay attention to the traditional native ways which were once common the world over.

The Hopi Indians in Arizona have been growing corn in a desert environment since the beginning of time. They do not even use irrigation, yet they have enough to eat. These



people have perfected agricultural techniques which are suited for land with very little water. The Hopi people have been able to maintain balance and harmony with the natural world. This lifestyle has many things to teach us all, particularly those living in similar climatic areas. The Hopi people are water conservers. They know, love and respect the natural world because they know they are part of that natural world. They are taken care of by the natural world, and this is a good and responsible way to live.

I would ask that my remaining time be reserved, and I look forward to hearing the comments of other members in this debate.

**11:20 a.m.**

**Mr. D. R. Cooke:** I rise to support the resolution of the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom). I do so representing perhaps the largest area in population remaining in the province which is not serviced by Great Lakes water at present. If we take a look at the map of Ontario, practically all of the province is bounded by the Great Lakes or the Ottawa River, with the exception of the areas in the Canadian Shield. London is now serviced by a pipeline, I believe from Lake Erie.

We have some concerns about water supply and perhaps we could be an area that could be looked at as having some problems akin to those in the United States.

Yet, adopting the view, as I understand it, of the Grand River Conservation Authority, I reject outright the thought that we want to have a pipeline from Lake Erie to our community so that we can drink our own pollution. Rather, the needs in that area have to be resolved with the continued use of wells; but that is a different subject. I am concerned that serious credence is being given to such a far-fetched and outlandish concept.

In 1985, the then-dying Conservative government entered into a Great Lakes charter with the other provinces and states that border on the Great Lakes. That charter was meant to be principles for the management of the Great Lakes water resources, which were described as being precious, public natural resources. That charter indicates that the waters of the Great Lakes basin are interconnected and a part of a single hydrologic system. The multiple uses of these resources from municipal, industrial and agricultural water supply; mining; navigation; hydro-electric power and energy production; recreation, and the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and a balanced ecosystem are interdependent.

The signatories went on to indicate a desire to preserve that. I am disturbed that the federal government is seriously looking into the concept of diversion with the GRANDCo project. I understand that GRANDCo has been granted \$30,000 for a water export project feasibility study and that it is seeking a further a \$763,000 from two different federal sources. The province has a great deal to say in this regard and it is not something that can be seriously considered without our approval. I do not know that there is any particular approval in this House. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), despite his party's opposition to this concept in the past, seems recently to have refused to confirm his commitment to oppose water diversion.

I understand one of the things that could happen if this project went through is that the polluted waters in the Niagara River, which the Americans are so unconcerned about, could be diverted from Lake Ontario back into New York state and into New England and be visited upon the polluters themselves. I do not suggest they should have that problem visited upon them, even though they may, unwittingly, wish it. I suggest the Americans take a good look at that.

We should take a look at the problems that have occurred with the Aswan Dam, where the Soviet Union and Egypt tried a huge water diversion project, which has caused all kinds of ecological problems that were not predicted at the time: stagnant waters; a snail's disease, where if you even touch the snail or its slime you end up dead. They did not know about these things when they asked for the Aswan Dam to take place.

I reiterate the suggestion I made during the throne speech debate last week, that when you look at new technology, you can never tell what all the downsides will be. We have to take a few leaps, but in this case, the downsides are so incredible and there must be so many we do not know about that they are frightening.

There are probably hundreds of thousands, if not perhaps millions, of species of birds, fish and flowers that will be endangered if we change the ecosystem of North America to this great extent, in areas in which we have not put any thought. I think about a situation where the previous government permitted a road to go through Ipperwash Provincial Park, and a simple, short road destroyed the last of a species of flower. That sort of thing would be incredible. I understand the Nishnawbe-Aski people have indicated their whole lifestyle would be com-



pletely destroyed. Therefore, I ask the House to vote against the project.

I am pleased there is a shoreline management review committee, with the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) as the chairman, which is looking at some of the huge problems that exist from a very slight change in the present ecosystem in the Great Lakes, where the water level changed slightly. How could we ever be certain of our control? Many of us have cottages near the upper side of a dam. Those simple dams in those simple circumstances are subject to serious problems of control.

What if a dam broke? What would be left of Ontario? Some serious questions have to be pondered. I think it would be a proper course for this House to tell the federal government and the GRANDCo people that we are not interested.

**Ms. Fish:** I rise to join in the call for the House to refuse to be any part whatsoever of a water diversion scheme as part of a free trade agreement with the United States or, I might add, part of any agreement with the US. The proposed diversion has been around since the days of Eric Kierans in 1959. It was unacceptable then, it is unacceptable now and it will be unacceptable in the future. The reasons are simple, they have been known for years and still apply today.

Among other things, this proposed diversion involves removing a precious resource from us. There are those who say that, with the flooding problems we have on Lake Erie and elsewhere, when we look around our province at the amount of water we have, surely we can afford to make use of that and export it. The fact that we have flooding problems in no way suggests we have water to burn in a long-term, permanent diversion arrangement with the United States.

Yes, there are flooding problems in Lake Erie. Yes, they should be dealt with. Yes, there should be relief for those near the banks of the Great Lakes. Yes, we should be prepared to see some shifting of the levels in some small way as emergency relief. That is not what this diversion scheme proposes and that is not what the free trade negotiator for the federal government has indicated he supports. He has indicated support for a massive diversion that would, among other things, place at real risk many of the ecological environments as well as the agricultural industries of this province.

**11:30 a.m.**

For example, all the information to date suggests there may be a devastating effect on fish spawning grounds, an area of care and concern in my government in the years we were in office,

with the investment we made in ensuring that the fisheries were strong and our waters full.

There is also the very serious concern about diversion that would replace fresh water with salt water, an incredible proposal. What impact does that have? Apart from the fact that very different marine life lives in salt water and in fresh water, there is the important impact on the climate: the fact of the freezing point differential between salt water and fresh water and the impact this in turn has on the moderating effect that large bodies of water currently have on the climate immediately around them.

It is perhaps most important to realize that the fight we have in front of us for our water is a fight to ensure clean water. It is a fight to ensure that the toxic chemicals that are now discharged into our waterways and drinking water sources are stopped; that they are cleaned up; that the water we do have is returned to the uses we always used to feel should be made of it, and that perhaps in more halcyon days, when we did not understand the impact of the chemical load in our water sources, thought was the case. That is to say for the important fisheries, for the importance of tourism; and perhaps more important than anything else, for the basic and fundamental health of the people of Ontario as they draw their drinking water from these same areas, as they have their recreation on them, as they are exposed to the chemicals that are there now and as they would be protected from that exposure with a cleanup in the future.

Another question, surely, is the need. Part of the interest in the United States for this incredibly shortsighted approach on the part of some huckster promoters in this country to sell out our fundamental resources is because of a flagrant disregard for the environmental impact of over-development in the US and an assumption that water can always just come down from the north. In the first stretch, it was in northern parts of the US. In the second stretch, it is a little bit over that border, which has been observed only occasionally; that is to say the Canadian north.

The procedures the US has undertaken in its development practices have been echoed in its agricultural practices. The wanton disregard for the drain on aquifers that took millions of years to fill means they are being reduced in less than a lifetime. The answers, as the Worldwatch Institute of Washington, DC, has clearly indicated, is found not in taking someone else's water, with a potentially devastating impact on the environment of a friendly neighbour—namely, ourselves—but rather in finding changes



in the agricultural practice in the US to go to dry-crop farming and changes in its development practice for conservation of the existing US water supply. The US is not short of water any more than Canada is short of water; it is short of sensible and practical policies to ensure that the water is well used.

We trade a number of things with the US and a number of things may warrant some review, a review that we hope will always be to the benefit of Canadians. However, in the area of the environment, the trade has been all one way and it has been all to our disadvantage. We are currently dramatic importers of acid rain produced in the US. We are dramatic importers of toxic rain produced in the US. We are dramatic importers of chemicals that leak down the Niagara gorge, that are emitted from proposed Detroit treatment plants and that come to us from throughout the northeastern US and the coal-producing states of the Midwest.

We import a great deal that has seen a tremendous devastation in our environment, that has seen our lakes die, that has seen our tourist industry crippled, that has seen an impact on our fisheries, that has seen a tremendous expense put forward to us in securing safe drinking water for our population, and expenses and a price in health as well as in facilities that we cannot even yet begin to contemplate with the impact of the cocktail effect that currently exists with the chemicals in our waterways.

Now is not the time to place on the table the issue of the draining of our water that will have such a terrible environmental impact if the diversion goes through. In any discussion of exchanges with the US, in any discussion of the balance of import and export, now is the time to place on the table the real priority: ensuring the complete cleanliness of water and ensuring that responsibility is exhibited by the US to prevent the lethal draining of old, uncared-for, unregulated, unattended dump sites, industries and municipal sewage works into the waterways we drink from. That is the priority.

If there is a sensitivity that the discussions should have, directed as they are from Ottawa, it is surely to understand that the priority in exchange is to deal with the deleterious effects we have already suffered from an unwarranted import; not to take the resource we are struggling to improve and send it south of the border to a country that does not need it and that has refused in the past to assist us in ensuring water purity and cleanliness.

**Mrs. Grier:** I am very pleased to participate in this debate and to support the resolution proposed by my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie. I am very pleased to hear support for the resolution expressed by members of the other parties.

It is vitally important that this House be on the record and register very strongly its opposition to any scheme that would see the water, the environment and the ecosystem of this province placed on the table as a pawn in the trading that is going on between our federal government and the US government.

In that debate over free trade, it seems to me there are many different classifications of arguments, and in some of them perhaps the answer is not clear. Some say jobs will be created by free trade; some say jobs will be lost. Some say social services will be diminished. Some say economic growth will increase; some say it will lessen. I think free trade is going to be very bad for our country for all those reasons, but I can at least listen to the arguments on the other side. I am not sure we know for sure what the consequences will be.

But when it comes to trading off our water, when it comes to the scheme to divert the waters at James Bay south to the United States, surely there can be no question about what the consequences will be; the environmental consequences are irreversible. It seems to me the height of arrogance to feel that we can play creator and change the face of the landscape with a project of this magnitude. It seems to ignore the vulnerability of the ecosystem that is involved and to ignore the traditional lifestyles of so many people in northern Ontario—the native peoples and the rest of the population who have made that area their home and their economic base.

Over the course of the past few years, we have been lulled into a feeling that perhaps things were improving on the Great Lakes. There was a gradual sense that they were important and that improvements were going to occur. I refer to the Great Lakes charter, which was signed in February 1985 by Ontario, Quebec and eight states in the US.

**11:40 a.m.**

That charter was hailed as a step in the right direction and as an improvement in the environment of the Great Lakes basin. It stated very explicitly that there would be no diversions on a large scale. But when one probes beneath the surface of that agreement, one finds that it is not legally enforceable. One finds that all it really



provides is prior notification to the other signatories when diversions are contemplated.

In reality, one finds the effect of that charter has been to streamline the approval process rather than to prevent diversions. The diversions, albeit on perhaps a small scale, are now easier to have approved by those people who feel that is in their interests. We have to be very careful in hailing as forward steps charters of this sort or agreements that may be signed between the federal governments of Canada and the US if they do not contain any meaningful safeguards to protect our environment and our water.

One of the positive results of the signing of that charter has been the formation of an organization known as Great Lakes United. It is a unique coalition of groups that are concentrating their energies on the preservation of the Great Lakes and that are unanimously opposed to the GRAND Canal diversion schemes.

It is interesting to note the variety of groups that are part of Great Lakes United. Organizations include the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the League of Women Voters, the United Auto Workers, the city of Toronto, the Great Lakes committee of the Sierra Club and the Canadian Environmental Law Association, to name just a few. The range of interests and the breadth of the concerns reflect the diversity of the membership of Great Lakes United.

The resolutions passed by Great Lakes United over the past two years express concern about air pollution and fallout; the protection of water quality and quantity in the Great Lakes; hazardous wastes and toxic substances and their effects on the Great Lakes; levels, flows and diversions; navigation; fish, wildlife and habitat; land use; energy distribution and development; and education.

In pointing out the diversity of its interests and the depth of its discussion, my intention has been to emphasize again that these groups and these resolutions are unanimous in their opposition to the diversion scheme. We ought to take note of the expertise and the depth of concern that have been developed.

Earlier this year, Great Lakes United and the Nishnawbe-Aski nation came to this building and held a press conference asking the province to join in their opposition to the GRAND Canal water diversion scheme and to express concern about the fact that our federal government was giving grants through the National Research Council to enable people to study the feasibility of this scheme.

The fact that such grants are available and have been awarded indicates the creeping nature of decisions such as this. They are promoted, but everyone feels: "That is too farfetched. It will never happen." Gradually, bit by bit, segmented approvals are given until we suddenly find ourselves faced, perhaps unknowingly, with a scheme that has been partially committed. That is why it is so important that today we register very strongly our opposition to this scheme.

My colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie has talked about the fact that nuclear power plants are going to be required to make this scheme a reality. I would like the members to reflect on the folly of building major nuclear power plants to pump water in a direction that water does not naturally flow. I would ask that they also reflect on the consequences to us all of that expansion of nuclear power.

As the member for St. George (Ms. Fish) has said, the solution is not the diversion south of Great Lakes water; the solution is a very concentrated effort on the part of all governments surrounding the Great Lakes to clean up the waters that flow there and to clean up the effects of contamination and toxic waste that for too long have been allowed to go unchecked. Only when that happens can we be sure that schemes such as the GRAND Canal water diversion are only that: schemes that are never going to come to reality. A good first step will be taken when we support this resolution later today, and I look forward to that vote.

**Mr. South:** I rise to support the member for Sault Ste. Marie. As I have mentioned before in this House, the battle for the waterhole has engaged man since the dawn of history. All that has changed are the locale and the actors. With limited water, there is limited life; with no water, there is no life. The amount of water on our planet does not change; all that changes is the place, whether it is in the oceans, evaporating, becoming rainfall or falling on the earth and becoming fresh surface water or ground water.

We in this country are blessed with a great fresh-water resource. We must use it well. In the past 20 years we have witnessed some very emotional battles, both international and national. We have seen the battle on our own Pacific coast between us and the Americans over the development of hydro rights on the Columbia River. Internationally, in the Middle East we have witnessed the battle for the control of the Jordan River and we are constantly seeing the continuing battle in the US Southwest among five states and Mexico competing for the Colorado River.



Today we have the technology to move vast amounts of water great distances, by pumping it, by blasting out the land divide between existing watersheds or by any one of a number of other new technologies.

Populations today are very mobile. Many people have decided to migrate, either temporarily or permanently, to the warmer climates of the southern US. Most crops grow more easily in these warmer climates. Of late years, there has been a movement of industry to the less developed southern US. This has been encouraged by lower labour rates, taxes and property costs.

However, the movers and the planners have forgotten one essential part of the equation: the adequacy of water. There is not sufficient water for the agriculture, the industry and the people in the southern US now. They are out of water. Ask the government of Mexico. Ask the farmers of California's Imperial Valley; there they are mining water. In some areas, the water table is dropping at a rate of 10 feet per year. It is like a bank account where one is withdrawing more than is going in. The banker will call and some day someone will have to pay the tune.

Our neighbours to the south are getting drier and drier. The question becomes whether we move the water to the people, where large numbers of people want to go, or whether we move the people to the water. The fresh water we have is fast becoming our most valuable resource. It is our heritage, and we as Ontarians and Canadians are temporary stewards. We must be thoughtful and vigilant, and we have to be apprehensive about the present Ottawa representatives at the international water poker table.

Do we send our water to Texas, Arizona and California so the American farmers can sell us more vegetables and the American car manufacturers of California can sell us more autos? No. I say to our American neighbours to the south: "Send us your grocery list. Send us your car needs. We will use our water to meet your needs. It is your choice whether you want to sit in the sun under a palm tree with a Coca-Cola to slake your thirst or whether you want to sit beside one of our Great Lakes under a maple tree with Adam's ale. Our water is our heritage, our birthright, and it is not for sale."

**11:50 a.m.**

**Mr. Taylor:** I have some difficulty in subscribing to the resolution by my friend the member for Sault Ste. Marie. I come close to embracing the proposition, but only in part.

If one reads the resolution, he is using water as a poker chip, as my friend the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. South) has said, in bargaining the issue of free trade. That is one issue. In so far as the resolution condemns putting on the table the sale of Canadian water resources as a stimulus to encouraging free trade with the United States, I disagree with that approach and I agree with that part of the resolution.

However, the resolution goes on to say "that Ontario will not consent to any major diversion of its fresh water, now or in the future." In my view, that is a different issue altogether. It is unrelated to the free trade issue as we know it today, let us face it.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** It gets to the heart of the matter.

**Mr. Taylor:** I hear the carping from the member for Sault Ste. Marie. He is concerned about free trade, as his party is concerned about free trade. They are absolutely opposed to the concept of free trade and very adamant in that. They follow the party line and the line of the unions that support that party. That is a separate agenda with a special interest in it.

The wording of the resolution is an attack on Canada's chief negotiator, Simon Reisman, in ascribing to him motives that are not there. It is an attempt to undermine his integrity. The statement by Simon Reisman was made prior to his appointment as chief negotiator for Canada. He has said since that those views are not relevant to his role as chief trade negotiator. Again, it is a red herring in a way; the member is undermining Canada's chief negotiator because of his views in regard to another project altogether.

If the member is concerned about free trade, perhaps he should remind himself of the problems in Sault Ste. Marie today. We had an emergency debate that has propelled the standing committee on resources development into motion. Next week, it will visit Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa to look at the impact of US protectionism and the downfall in the steel market. Only yesterday we heard from an expert in this area that free trade would resolve the problems in the Sault and Wawa area and that US protectionism would be a calamity. Perhaps the member had better rethink his posture in terms of the free trade issue rather than bring in red herrings.

As I mentioned, this whole business of the GRAND Canal system is a separate item altogether. The GRAND Canal system is what we have heard debated today. I think before condemning that system, there should be further



investigation of that system. I do not think we should conclude summarily as to the merits of that project. It is altogether different from the issue of trade and using our water resources as a bargaining chip in regard to the issue of free trade.

Therefore, while I subscribe to the proposition that we not use it as a bargaining chip and that part of the resolution, I cannot subscribe to the part of the resolution that states that Ontario should never sell any of its water, that Ontario will not consent to any major diversion of its fresh water, now or in the future. That, of course, could be a diversion within Ontario for Ontarians; it could be a diversion within Ontario for Canadians. It does not necessarily mean the export of fresh water to the US. That is a different proposition altogether.

The proposed GRAND Canal, as the member for Sault Ste. Marie mentioned, is a very large scheme, five times the size of the Apollo moon landing project, which has been mentioned. The current price tag is something like \$100 million. The project would employ approximately 300,000 workers, 150,000 directly and 150,000 indirectly, with a time frame for completion of 10 years.

I do not think the House is in a position after an hour's debate to come to a conclusion about the merits of that project, which is altogether different from the proposition of free trade. What the member for Sault Ste. Marie is doing is trying to put another string to his bow in undermining the whole concept of free trade and the proposition that it would be beneficial to Ontario to have free trade.

Interjection.

**Mr. Taylor:** I am sorry. I did not hear that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Interjections are out of order.

**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am looking at the clock. I am rushed by it and I am afraid my time is now up. Thank you for this opportunity.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Sault Ste. Marie has reserved approximately three minutes.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** I am pleased to hear that we appear to have nearly unanimous support for this resolution in the House. I was pleased to hear the comments of the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke) and the member for Frontenac-Addington representing the government party. I was particularly pleased to hear the details and extensive support outlined by the member for St. George for the official opposition party.

Unfortunately, I am not quite as happy with the remarks made by the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor). The issue here is not fundamentally an issue of free trade. The fundamental issue here is the issue of the environment, the protection of our natural heritage; the protection of our northern way of life; the protection of the ability of all of us to enjoy the wilderness, the recreation opportunities in the north; and the protection of lifestyle of our native people.

It is also to ensure not only that this potential project that has been brought up, the GRAND Canal project, is not discussed in a serious manner in the current trade negotiations, but also, as the member for Prince Edward-Lennox points out, that Ontario not consent to any major diversion of its fresh water, now or in the future. This is not limited strictly to the GRAND Canal project; it establishes a principle, which I think all of us should support, in regard to the utter devastation that a major diversion could create for the province and for our way of life here in Ontario.

By passing this resolution, the Ontario Legislature would be condemning any attempt by the federal government to link free trade with the diversion of Ontario's water resources in the current context, which is where the pressing concern is today. We will ensure that Ontario's fresh water is off the table in the current negotiations, and that is simply what this is trying to do in the current context. As Ontario legislators, we cannot countenance the views of Simon Reisman, who has publicly stated that Canadian water could be part of a trade agreement with the US.

Previous comments by members of the other two parties in the Ontario Legislature have indicated that they share the abhorrence of my party towards the idea that Ontario water resources should be an item for negotiation with the US. The provincial government has the constitutional jurisdiction to manage and protect Ontario's fresh-water resources. By supporting this resolution we will be enshrining the principle that Ontario will not consent to any major diversion of its fresh water, now or in the future.

**12:06 p.m.**

#### TAX-FREE GASOLINE

The House divided on Mr. Villeneuve's motion of resolution 33, which was agreed to on the following vote:

#### Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bernier, Breaugh, Charlton, Davis, Eves, Ferraro, Fish,



Foulds, Gigantes, Gillies, Gregory, Grier, Guindon, Harris, Hayes, Henderson, Hennessy, Mackenzie, McCague, McClellan, McKessock, McLean, McNeil, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, O'Connor, Partington, Philip, Pierce, Poirier, Pollock, Ramsay, Reville, Reycraft, Rowe, Runciman, Smith, D. W., South, Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Warner, Wildman.

#### Nays

Callahan, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Epp, Hart, Newman, Nixon, Polsinelli, Smith, E. J.

Ayes 50; nays 10.

#### WATER DIVERSION

The House divided on Mr. Morin-Strom's motion of resolution 32, which was agreed to on the following vote:

#### Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bernier, Breugh, Callahan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Davis, Epp, Eves, Ferraro, Fish, Foulds, Gigantes, Gillies, Grier, Harris, Hart, Hayes, Henderson, Hennessy, Laughren, Mackenzie, McCague, McClellan, McKessock, McLean, McNeil, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, Newman, Nixon, O'Connor, Partington, Philip, Poirier, Pollock, Polsinelli, Ramsay, Reville, Reycraft, Rowe, Runciman, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., South, Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Warner, Wildman.

#### Nays

Dean, Gregory, Pierce, Taylor, Treleaven, Villeneuve.

Ayes 55; nays 6.

The House recessed at 12:19 p.m.



## AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

## HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Mr. Brandt:** Yesterday, in response to a question from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), the Premier (Mr. Peterson) indicated that the \$850-million commitment to capital investment for hospitals over the next five years would allow hospitals to engage in long-term planning. He also indicated that this amount was an increase in funding, although I have some difficulty with the arithmetic being used by the government.

If last year's capital program totalled \$170 million in capital spending for hospitals and was deemed to be inadequate by the current government, I fail to see how \$850 million over five years, or perhaps over as many as eight years—surprisingly enough, it is exactly \$170 million a year if taken over five years—can be deemed adequate. That may not be new math, but it is accurate. There has been no increase in funding on the basis of the figures we have seen to date.

Be that as it may, chronic bed shortages in my area of Sarnia are reaching crisis proportions. A commitment from the government is needed to complete the years of planning that have already taken place. St. Joseph's Hospital has already raised close to \$4 million. The local community has done its part. The present government now has an obligation to fulfil its commitment, which means nothing short of an approval to proceed, coupled with the necessary funds if, to use the Premier's words, it is to get on with its long-term planning.

## PENSION FUNDS

**Mr. Mackenzie:** The government of Ontario has sat back over the last year and watched a massive raid on the pension funds of workers in this province. More than \$187 million of so-called surplus earnings in private plans has been pocketed by a variety of different corporations in the last year alone. Right now, Rexnord Canada Ltd. in North York and Port Hope is applying for more than \$4 million of earnings in the workers' pension funds, at a time when it is in the process of rationalizing the operation, shutting down a plant and eliminating the jobs of long-service employees.

Most private pension plans lack indexing, most of them are inadequate to begin with, and any surplus earnings should go back to the workers. The principle that pensions, however negotiated or funded, are deferred wages is something that has been almost universally accepted in this country for a number of years. This government appears to be backing off from that principle and is reversing the principle of pension contributions as deferred wages.

If this government has decided this is the case, it owes an explanation to the public of Ontario and to workers over the ownership of workers' pension plans.

## SOVIET JEWS

**Mr. Offer:** I am pleased to inform the House that a group of students is travelling across Canada on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Today, they are in Toronto and will be conducting a rally this evening at Queen's Park to express outrage at the deprivation of human rights experienced by Soviet Jews. They will be travelling across this country to Expo 86 in Vancouver, taking the issue of Soviet Jewry to the people of this country.

It is gratifying to see so many of our youth in this issue taking up the cause of the right of freedom of expression, freedom of worship and freedom of speech. In this province and in this country, we are grateful to be able to express ourselves freely at all levels of involvement. It is incumbent upon all of us to take note that this freedom is not given to all in this world. These students and others, by their actions, serve to remind us that the sweet fragrance of freedom is one which cannot be shared by all. Their commitment, determination and sacrifice give many thousands of people the hope that one day they too will be able to live as we do. I am confident of the future when I see the energy of our youth fighting for something so dear to all of us.

## NIAGARA POWERMATIC CARWASH

**Mr. Partington:** Following a letter I sent to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) late last month, he will be aware of problems at the Niagara Powermatic Carwash where, on October 25, 1985, contractors for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario began excavating for an outlet at 179 St. Paul Street West in St. Catharines. The removal of



soil along the west foundation and under the footings of the car wash, which is next door, caused complete collapse of a large portion of the west wall and serious damage to those portions left standing. As a result, the car wash is now inoperable. An architect's report indicates the building cannot be salvaged. It will have to be taken down and completely rebuilt.

The innocent victims in all this are Peter and Don Kobryn, the owners. The LCBO has turned the matter over to its insurer and there the matter sits. However, while a settlement is awaited, while court proceedings unfold, the Kobryns face bankruptcy. They have had to lay off all their employees; they have lost their source of income; they have been burdened with legal and engineering costs; and they have been making mortgage payments on an inoperable car wash.

Also, the people of west St. Catharines deserve an immediate resolution of this matter so they may have their long-awaited LCBO outlet.

I ask the minister to take whatever action is necessary to expedite a conclusion to this matter. I also ask that he make interim financial assistance available, perhaps in the form of an interest-free loan, until settlement is reached. In that way, he will protect the innocent owners of the car wash, save the jobs of the Kobryns' employees and show sensitivity in his handling of the affair.

### SAFETY ASSOCIATIONS

**Mr. Philip:** This morning in the standing committee on public accounts, I introduced a motion for an inquiry into expenditures by nine safety associations in Ontario. The motion will be debated and voted on next Thursday.

The expenditure of these associations has skyrocketed from \$9.9 million in 1975 to \$31.4 million in 1985. One must ask whether value for money is being received, since work-place injuries have increased by 25 per cent in the last two years alone.

Among the issues we will be looking at are the following: In 1984, the Industrial Accident Prevention Association moved into new headquarters at approximately twice the cost of some that could have been obtained down the street. Last year, close to \$1 million was spent by IAPA staff on travel alone. IAPA has spent money on such extravagant items as oil portraits of its general managers.

These are but a few of the fiscal concerns we will be looking at. One must ask if these extravagances are in the best interests of em-

ployees, of companies burdened by Workers' Compensation Board premiums or the public.

### MIDDLESEX-LONDON DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

**Mr. Reycraft:** I want to draw to the attention of the Legislature a very happy event that will take place in the city of London tomorrow afternoon. It will occur at the site of the very historic forks of the Thames, a site that was once proposed by the then governor, John Graves Simcoe, to be the capital of Ontario. Had that proposal been followed, it would be the site of this chamber and the building in which it is now contained.

While the site is important, its importance is secondary. For many years, the Middlesex-London District Health Unit has been labouring diligently to provide quality health care services to the people of London and Middlesex county. The unit has laboured under the handicap of having its accommodations dispersed in three or four different locations around the city. The board of health has been attempting with some diligence to try to achieve a consolidation of the facilities.

As a result of their work, a lease agreement with the council of the county of Middlesex has been achieved to construct a new facility for them. The new accommodation, which is as attractive as it is functional, is to be opened tomorrow afternoon. I want to congratulate the councils of the county of Middlesex and the city of London, as well as the board of health, on the official opening of their new accommodation tomorrow afternoon.

### STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

**Mr. Stevenson:** This morning at 10 o'clock, John Wise, the federal Minister of Agriculture, announced an interim stabilization payment for corn and soybeans. This payment is \$5 per ton for corn and \$9 for soybeans. It is approximately 50 per cent of the expected final payment, which will be calculated at the end of this crop year ending on October 31, 1986.

The payment for the same period on the provincial stabilization program is expected to be \$7 a ton. If our payments were calculated on Ontario prices only and not on a pooled price of Ontario and Quebec, that \$7-payment would rise to an expected \$8.50. We firmly believe the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) should announce today that he will also come forward with a \$5-per-ton interim payment to the cash-starved Ontario farmers.



2:12 p.m.

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

### CORPS D'ÉLITE

**Hon. Mr. Eakins:** We are honoured today by the presence in the west gallery of the first four recreation volunteers to become members of Corps d'élite Ontario. Earlier this afternoon I had the pleasure, along with His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, to present awards to Albert Bourdeau of Embrun, Joseph Craig of Scarborough, Mrs. Frances McHale of London and Frederick Whiskin of Burlington.

Corps d'élite Ontario is a new program created by my ministry to honour individuals who have made a significant impact on the development of recreation in this province. It is in keeping with our government's commitment to honour those who care about their communities.

Joseph Craig and Frederick Whiskin have made notable contributions to recreation through their involvement with the Boy Scouts of Canada. Mrs. Frances McHale developed day and wilderness camps for youths as well as recreation programs for older adults. Albert Bourdeau assisted in the development of regional and provincial recreation programs and services, including the development of a francophone recreation association.

These four members of the Corps d'élite Ontario are the first of many. In future presentation ceremonies up to 35 awards will be conferred annually at the provincial level.

The Corps d'élite Ontario program also recognizes volunteers on a regional level, and this part of the program is just getting under way. During the next few months, outstanding volunteers will receive recognition in each of my ministry's five regions. Up to 15 people will be honoured annually in each of the regions.

The first four members of the provincial Corps d'élite were selected by a special committee of seven parks and recreation leaders from across the province.

The role of the recreation volunteer has long deserved greater recognition. It is estimated that volunteers contribute more than 20 million hours a year to recreational organizations, events and activities in this province. By honouring these four individuals, we are also honouring the thousands of other volunteers, coaches, leaders, managers, co-ordinators and committee members who give generously of their time and talents to recreation. Without them, the quality of

community life in Ontario would not be as we know it.

I ask all honourable members to join me in congratulating these four outstanding individuals.

[Later]

### GREETING OF VISITORS

**Mr. Grossman:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order and privilege: I notice that the Corps d'élite members who were introduced by the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) a moment ago, just as happened yesterday, have now been escorted out of the House prior to an opportunity being granted to the opposition parties to join the government in welcoming them to the House.

Yesterday, the government House leader apologized and promised it would not happen again. Now for the second time, perhaps pursuant to the strategy of the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro), which was outlined in that offensive document, the government continues to do something which we on this side of the House find totally offensive.

These are not partisan events. If the government wishes to have partisan events, it can have them outside of this House. When they introduce visitors to the House, opposition parties should have an equal opportunity, in accordance with the courtesy established here many years ago and only violated since this government came into office, to join the government in expressing the greetings of all members of political parties in this House. We are offended.

**Mr. McClellan:** It is a matter of very basic and elementary courtesy to the opposition parties that the practice which happened yesterday and again today be discontinued.

I have one suggestion. After the discussions we had and the apologies which were rendered, I believed we had solved the problem, but obviously we have not. May I suggest to the government House leader, first, that statements welcoming distinguished visitors and guests be put at the bottom of the list of ministerial statements and, second, that ministry staff be instructed not to escort distinguished visitors and guests out of the galleries until the other two parties have had an opportunity to extend nonpartisan greetings to them.

I hope this does not happen again.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I believe the difficulties that have been brought to the attention of the House on two successive days are essentially a result of the new rules rather than a result of any intention on the part of the ministers concerned.



Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Under the previous rules, a tradition had grown that right after prayers members on all sides would introduce visitors of note. Quite often it was accepted that other parties would respond in the usual way.

It was also a very healthy custom that the member on any side who was introducing an individual or group of note would make sure other parties knew about it so that all could take part in what is essentially, and must continue to be, a nonpolitical and useful exercise.

With the acceptance of the new rules, it was understood that these informal interruptions, if I may call them that, in the general order of business would come to an end. For the first 10 minutes, private members would have an opportunity to introduce visiting dignitaries of whatever level, including hockey teams and so on. This was generally accepted, and by mutual agreement the ministers were excluded from participating during that time period.

The suggestion that any ministerial statement be at the end of statements so that the next section would be the response from opposition parties is an excellent one. We have not had a chance to instruct ourselves as a cabinet since the occasion yesterday, but the ministers are here and they are aware of the dislocation—and to some extent the embarrassment—the new rules can cause. We are all aware of this.

I assure the members that this is not in any way an overt obstruction of the opposition. To the contrary, I assure the members on behalf of my colleagues that we do not want this to happen. I should also say that the members of the Corps d'élite group who left went of their own accord; they were not escorted out. I am sure they would very much miss the opportunity to hear the comments of opposition members.

I think we will straighten this out. I would ask that you, Mr. Speaker, and the honourable members accept my assurances that we feel we are responding to the rules, but we can do better and we intend to do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have listened carefully. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) rose on a point of order or a point of privilege. Again, I have to say it is not really either of those points, but rather, it is a point of objection. I think it has been taken into consideration.

[Later]

### CORPS D'ÉLITE

**Mr. Rowe:** I take this opportunity to join the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins)

in congratulating the first four recreation volunteers in the Corps d'élite program. Our party realizes the important role of individuals who make a significant impact on the development of recreation in this province, and we salute the four citizens who have the honour of becoming the first four recreation volunteers in the Corps d'élite program. We say to them: "Well done. Your communities and your province appreciate your commitment."

**Mr. Hayes:** On behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party, I also want to join the Minister of Tourism and Recreation in congratulating the four members of the provincial Corps d'élite. We feel recreation is a very important fibre in our way of living, and it is a good way to develop young people in our society. It is also another very good way of keeping our seniors active. Without people like the four members of the Corps d'élite, many of our recreational activities for the young and the old would never be possible. Once again, I congratulate and thank them very much for what they are doing for this province and this country.

### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** Earlier today I took part in the kickoff of a private sector campaign to create summer jobs for students in Metropolitan Toronto and York region. The campaign is one of three in this province where the private sector is assuming a leadership role and stimulating more opportunities for summer employment for more young people.

These initiatives are taking place in Metro as well as in the national capital region, including Ottawa, Hull, Gatineau and Aylmer, and a July campaign in North Bay. Each is unique and addresses the particular needs of the local community.

Je suis ravi que mon ministère participe à cette campagne en collaboration avec le gouvernement fédéral, le gouvernement du Québec pour la région de la Capitale nationale, les administrations locales et dans une large mesure, le secteur privé.

It is my pleasure today to salute the leaders of these local initiatives. They are: Don Cruickshank, vice-president of corporate communications at Bell Canada, who is providing leadership for Youth Action/Jeunesse Action '86, which is the Ottawa campaign; Dennis Mills, the vice-president of corporate affairs for Magna International, who is the leader of Youth Network, the Metro campaign; and Mayor Stan Lawlor, chairman of the North Bay and District Youth



Trust, who is the leader of the two-day job blitz to take place in that lovely city on July 7 and 8.

These initiatives complement the summer jobs programs of my ministry, which I announced in this Legislature four months ago. The sum of \$43.8 million was allocated for Experience '86, the Ontario youth employment program and Start-Up, the last of which provides interest-free loans to eligible students. The deadline for Experience '86 has passed and the deadlines for Summer Start-Up and the Ontario youth employment program will both occur in the next month, just as these private sector initiatives go into high gear.

In each of these private sector campaigns, the target is additional summer jobs, beyond the number normally achieved through regular hiring and government programs. In Ottawa, the target of Youth Action '86 is 2,000 additional jobs. In Toronto and York, the target is 10,000 jobs. Last year in North Bay, a one-day job blitz generated close to 250 jobs for summer students.

My ministry, through the office of the Ontario youth commissioner, Ken Dryden, has provided some of the inspiration for the campaigns. In addition to ongoing advisory support, we have also loaned staff and made a financial contribution to the national capital and to the Toronto-York campaigns, which has been matched by the federal and local governments. It is worth noting that the combined support from all levels of government amounts to slightly more than one quarter of the total costs of these campaigns. It is largely the private sector, through financial contributions and donated services, which is accepting this significant responsibility.

These initiatives will draw out additional summer jobs, and summer jobs for young people who otherwise probably would not have them, from the private sector that may not be there in the absence of volunteer effort.

La création d'emplois d'été, afin de permettre à nos jeunes d'acquérir de l'expérience et une certaine formation professionnelle, est un noble objectif que nous nous efforçons d'atteindre par la collaboration.

Once again, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all of those who are working with government to increase summer job opportunities for our young people.

**Mr. Gillies:** In response to the statement by the Minister of Skills Development, I join with him in saluting the efforts of the three private sector individuals who are doing what they can to create summer jobs for young people in this province this summer.

We certainly hope, as the minister does, that some thousands of new jobs for young people will result. This is necessary, faced with the lack of increased commitment by this government to the young people of this province. The minister, as if with pride, repeated that the government of Ontario will be spending \$43.8 million on youth employment this summer. This is exactly the same amount as last summer without even an inflationary increase.

As recently as yesterday, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) repeated that the entire youth envelope of the government this year will be \$175 million, exactly the same as last year. The \$25 million in additional funding promised by the Treasurer in his last budget is missing. All of this points to the fact that if additional young people are going to get jobs in a very tough summer, they will indeed have to get them through the private sector, because they are not going to get them through the government of the Premier (Mr. Peterson).

We wish them well. The students need these jobs, so that they can return to their studies next year. They need every effort and advantage we can offer them. I suggest to the minister that, rather than statements and press releases, what we need from the current government is real commitment.

**Mr. Warner:** In response to the statement of the Minister of Skills Development we are supposed to be grateful for small crumbs, but I want to remind him of some very simply arithmetic. Many university students will obtain minimum wage jobs this summer that will net them approximately \$2,400. The cost of attending university in town is approximately \$6,000 and out of town it is approximately \$10,000. What he is doing is guaranteeing that young people will mortgage their futures.

He has to do one of two things. He has either to create a more buoyant economy or to find a way to lessen the cost of university for young people or they will continue to mortgage their futures. He has addressed neither of those two potentials. It is a very disappointing response to an urgent need in our community.

**Mr. Martel:** Right on.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

#### PROVINCE OF ONTARIO SAVINGS OFFICE

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As Minister of Revenue, on January 13 I introduced a new daily interest savings account in the Province of Ontario Savings Office. I would like to bring the members up to date on the progress of this account.



As of today, POSO clients have opened more than 21,000 Trillium accounts with deposits totalling \$400 million. While in large part this is the result of existing customers taking advantage of the benefits of our daily interest account, what is significant is that our deposits since January 13 have increased by \$87 million. This is particularly encouraging because it means former customers are returning to POSO and existing customers are transferring deposits from other institutions.

We are gratified by the return of many valued customers. The slow decline in POSO accounts has been dramatically reversed. Indeed, we fully expect to regain the \$100 million that customers transferred out of the Province of Ontario Savings Office in the past year or so in order to gain daily interest. We anticipate additional increases in deposits.

Since we introduced the Trillium account, the interest rates have increased eight times, reflecting our determination and ability to compete in the changing financial marketplace. Trillium accounts with daily balances of \$5,000 and over now earn eight per cent, while daily balances under \$5,000 earn 6.5 per cent.

Several of the members have told me they have followed my advice and opened a Trillium account. I advise the other members to follow our lead, exercise their financial acumen and go over to the Queen's Park branch in the Macdonald Block and say, "Bob sent me."

**Mr. Philip:** While I welcome the statement by the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Nixon), which indicates that deposits in the Province of Ontario Savings Office have risen to \$400 million, this is very small and pale indeed compared to the \$4.2 billion now on deposit in the Alberta Treasury Branches. The difference between Alberta and Ontario is that the Alberta Treasury Branches have the opportunity to compete with the banks and to make loans. That was envisioned by the father of the current Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and his government when they established the Province of Ontario Savings Office. It is too bad the Conservatives diluted the powers of those savings offices in 1923.

Once again I call on the Treasurer to adopt my private member's bill to allow the Province of Ontario Savings Office to be competitive. If not for my sake, then at least in his father's sake, I say to him to restore the Ontario savings offices to their original intention.

2:31 p.m.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. We asked this question of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), but he did not quite seem to understand what the budget announcement was. I am sure this minister does.

With regard to the announcement of \$850 million for hospital capital over five or eight years, it appears that the current commitments or undertakings for hospital capital would have the government spend approximately \$170 million per year during the next few years. If this is all additional money, can we presume that this coming year there will be not \$170 million but \$340 million spent on hospital capital?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman will realize that what this announcement quite clearly indicated was that there was \$850 million in new money for the planning stage. We will be making announcements in the upcoming days and months that will indicate the addition of upwards of 4,000 new beds in our system, and he will understand that it will be new money, not having to do with past commitments.

**Mr. Grossman:** If it is new money, I remind the minister that the budget plan—that is this document—this week reported \$168 million capital for this coming year, which is the flat-lined number; so we can presume that none of this new money is going to be spent in this coming year, according to the budget.

As further proof of that, can the minister tell us whether, in the moneys already committed by the ministry and therefore not included in his new announcement, are the North Bay Civic Hospital, St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins, Sensenbrenner Hospital in Kapuskasing, North Albany Hospital and Espanola General Hospital?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Those projects are already on go; they have been budgeted for. The honourable gentleman knows full well, having contacted our ministry through his research department, that those are projects that have been and are budgeted for under the old capital program. They are in addition to the \$850-million phase 1 program that was announced by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon).

**Mr. Grossman:** The position of the Minister of Health is that his government, when it announced the technology fund, did not just announce the \$50 million a year of new money but took the old money and added the new money to announce \$100 million a year, or \$1 billion.



The minister is taking the position that his government has underestimated its spending, that it did not include all of these previous commitments for northern Ontario when announcing what its capital program is going to be for northern Ontario in the next five or eight years.

If that is his position—which I would be highly suspicious of, given the way he has been putting out news releases—is the \$850 million the government's share, or is that the total cost of all the projects, including the one-third contribution by the public?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The commitment to northern Ontario will go up in the phase 1 program; it will be four projects there. I do not want the Leader of the Opposition to leave the impression that there are no new initiatives set for northern Ontario, because there are. The \$850 million, about which the Treasurer announced the commitment of this government in terms of real dollars for the building of new hospital beds throughout Ontario, is the government's money for the startup of that phase 1 program in the next five years.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Pope:** My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, the minister who has responsibility for the development of industrial strategy and industrial expansion in the province, and the minister who has been put in office and continues to be supported in office by the New Democratic Party member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom).

In the speech from the throne and in the budget, what is available for the 1,900 steelworkers at Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie? How are the budget and the speech from the throne going to help them today?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** Several initiatives were announced by the Treasurer which will aid the people of the north. We are working very hard, the ministers, deputy ministers and all of our staff, to see what we can put in place to assist the people in the north.

**Mr. Martel:** Take a hike. There is nothing in it and the minister knows it.

**Mr. Pope:** I have to agree with the New Democratic Party member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), there is nothing that will help the steelworkers of Algoma Steel and Sault Ste. Marie.

My supplementary is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, who was put in office and who is still supported in office by the

New Democratic Party member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman). Can he tell me how the budget and the speech from the throne are going to help the iron ore miners in Wawa who are facing layoffs right now? How will they be helped today by the budget and the speech from the throne?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** As I mentioned before, there were several initiatives which will definitely help the north, and we are looking and working at other initiatives.

**Mr. Wildman:** On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** I will listen very briefly for a point of privilege.

**Mr. Wildman:** I will be brief. I want to thank the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) for saying I have the power to put this government in power all by myself. I do not think it is—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. That is not a point of privilege.

**Mr. Pope:** I reiterate, I support the position of the New Democratic Party member for Sudbury East. There is nothing in the speech from the throne or the budget to help the workers of northern Ontario.

My final supplementary is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, in all his provincial responsibilities, put in office and supported in office by the New Democratic Party member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot). What in the budget and in the speech from the throne will help the workers at Kimberly-Clark and Terrace Bay who are facing the prospect of immediate layoffs? Can he name one thing?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** From our own section of the budget, I could mention that one thing we will be hearing quite a bit about is the new ventures program, which will help create a lot of jobs. A lot of jobs are created by small business in this province, and that is one section of the budget that will add a lot of jobs in the north.

#### EXTRA BILLING

2:40 p.m.

**Mr. McClellan:** I have a question for the Minister of Health with respect to his continuing failure to move forward Bill 94, the act to ban extra billing. Dr. Moran is quoted in this morning's Globe and Mail as saying: "We will never accept a negotiated settlement that incorporates a total ban. That is not going to change."

Given that statement, after 10 meetings, can the minister tell us why he continues to perpetrate the charade that the talks are meaningful and fruitful? Will he not now agree to accept the



advice of the New Democratic Party to move the bill out of the standing committee on social development and into committee of the whole House, where it can be debated and passed quickly?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** First and foremost, the negotiations which this government has entered into with the Ontario Medical Association are not and have never been a charade. We are discussing items seriously. We have indicated consistently that no person in this province will be asked to pay more than the Ontario health insurance plan schedule. We will reimburse those people for any payments made for medical services that are insured services in this province.

For the member to indicate that a charade is being perpetrated by this government is not a statement of the facts of this matter. We are earnest in our discussions. We have been discussing and will continue to discuss earnestly a negotiated settlement, if that is possible. Bearing in mind the person quoted most recently from that article cited in today's newspaper, I can tell the gentleman that may be one person's opinion. As well, the advice from my cabinet colleagues was that if there was not substantial progress, we would look to the Legislature. I adhere to that advice very strongly and firmly.

**Mr. McClellan:** The minister must be contemplating something less than a total ban.

In today's paper, Dr. Railton stated as follows, "A lot of people believe strike action is necessary before the legislation reaches the House and the government's position is going to intensify that." Dr. Moran added, "It's easier to stop bad legislation than it is to change it."

Does the minister not realize that this government's policy of delay has played into the hands of the OMA, whose strategy clearly has been stated again today to organize support for a strike before the legislation has been passed? Does the minister not understand that, even at this late date? Is he not now prepared to move the bill forward before the inevitable takes place?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Today the honourable gentleman comments on the strategy of the OMA, and although I have had a series of discussions and meetings right from June 26 to today's date, I have been told on numerous occasions that it does not discuss its strategy with the NDP. Although that may be his reading of their strategy, I have received an undertaking from them that they do not develop their strategy in consultation with the third party as to how they carry on their negotiations.

We are firm in the principle of the bill we brought to the House. We will not be moved on that. We also are firm on the commitment to the medical profession to work as hard as we can to come up with a negotiated settlement. We have made the commitment that we must see substantial progress or we will move to bring that legislation into early clause-by-clause deliberation.

**Mr. McClellan:** The OMA does not talk to me; it talks to the press. They have stated their strategy very clearly in public and what their appeal is to the OMA membership. Does the minister not understand, even at this late date, that the OMA's leadership is telling its members the only way to stop this bill is to strike? Does the minister not understand the corollary that the only possible way to avoid a strike is to get the bill passed before the annual meeting of the OMA on June 11?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I understand the gentleman's concern with the annual meeting date. It has significance not only for the OMA but perhaps even for the NDP and other people as well. With respect to certain other legislative agendas, annual meetings perhaps are important to us all.

When this government deals with policy matters, it is not going to be driven by either annual meetings or artificial time limits that are placed on it. We want to have a thorough, honest and open discussion with respect to this legislation. This is a very important reform in the medical field in this province.

I can tell the honourable members of this House and the people of this province that we will make every effort and go the extra mile to take every opportunity to come up with a negotiated settlement if that is possible; if not, I am accepting the advice of my cabinet colleagues to move the bill forward.

#### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** My question is for the Treasurer and it concerns his questionable priorities on poverty issues. After the government had an \$800-million windfall in unexpected revenues for the province, he was able to find only \$41 million for two major projects; the Ontario health insurance plan premium assistance program and the shelter allowance plan.

How is it that the Treasurer feels he has moved far enough towards his goals of eliminating OHIP premiums when, as a result of the \$15 million for OHIP premium assistance, people who are earning only \$5 an hour will not be



eligible for any premium assistance in the province?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The honourable member neglected to mention the third program, of which I am quite proud, where the tax reduction for lower-income earners is extended. It would be wise to note that the taxable income associated with zero tax payable in the province is \$2,075, which is a family income of \$12,056.

I am not for a moment saying that \$12,056 is a high family income—far from it—but I point out that the federal government, a Progressive Conservative government, charges \$206 personal income tax on a family income of \$12,056. It may not impress the member that I am saying we are better than the PCs, but I thought it was a significant addition to the discussion that I consider to be very important.

Those three programs have been brought forward, as the member has indicated, and they have been enriched in both budgets I have had the honour to present to the House. As I said before, I wish there were more; but in my judgement that is what we can do at this time.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** The Treasurer will remember that he did not address the matter of premium assistance in his last budget. I reminded him of that on October 29, 1985; he can check Hansard to remind himself of that. At that time, he thought he would be able to do something about it.

Why is it that the most he can do is provide \$15 million, which does not come in this year but starts in January 1987? Why should those people be penalized by the lack of action by the previous Tory government since 1981, and why should they have to wait another year before they are going to be eligible for this government's premium assistance?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I recall the honourable member discussed premium assistance after the last budget, and I responded then as I respond now, in a way which might not impress him but I am going to put it to the House anyway. We did not raise the premiums last fall, and that was the first time they were not increased in many years. As a matter of fact, the proportion of total OHIP costs covered by premiums is reducing substantially and is now down to slightly more than 15 per cent; that is in the total OHIP costs of approximately \$900 million.

Once again, it is an indication of our goodwill. Perhaps we should have done more, but we felt that reducing the cash requirements this year by less than \$600 million was also worth doing.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** I know the Treasurer has to wait until next January to get rid of this \$670-a-year payment, but for people on minimum wage in the province at the moment, it is no real blessing, if I can put it that way. On shelter allowance, I hope the Treasurer knows the reason people go to food banks is that they have to take from their food money to pay their rent because the allowances have not kept up with inflation. Why is it that he did not eradicate the problem in the shelter allowance? For every \$4 they spend on rent, they are given only \$3 to pay that rent. This means that, no matter what the allowance, they have to take \$1 out of every \$4 of their food money.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** In working on this aspect of the budget, we consulted the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and the officials there. We felt we had to respond to the obvious need for food and the inadequate financing for buying food for families, particularly in a number of urban centres; Toronto is probably the most important.

**2:50 p.m.**

We are very grateful that many charitable organizations—churches and other organizations—have established these food banks. Many people, myself included, are surprised and dumfounded that under our system this is needed. It is my job to provide the funds that will obviate the necessity. This way was described as the best for us to proceed in now; that is, instead of providing money for food, we assist people in heating their homes and by providing additional rent subsidies.

The honourable member says, and I am sure he is correct, that the amount provided is inadequate, but it is what we felt we could provide at this time.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Pope:** My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, who has responsibility for industrial policy and industrial development in Ontario and who was put in office and is supported in office by the New Democratic Party members from Toronto.

Can the minister tell me what the speech from the throne and the budget will do for the 80 workers of Canada Malting in Toronto who were laid off in March 1986, the 100 workers at General Instrument in Toronto who were laid off in December 1985, the 100 workers at Rothmans in Toronto who were laid off in March 1986 and the 61 workers at the head office of Kidd Creek



Mines in Toronto who were laid off in March 1986?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** If the member were to look through the budget in complete detail, he would find that not only do we have the new \$100-million-per-year budget for a technology fund but we have also increased the budget for the Ministry of Skills Development by a substantial amount.

I mentioned the ventures program, which will be coming forward from this ministry. It will provide jobs not only in the north but also in the east and throughout the rest of Ontario. There are many other things I could mention, such as the community economic transformation agreements. The member can look at the budget to see how many there are.

**Mr. Pope:** That reminds me of when the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grand-maitre), who is the minister responsible for francophone affairs, said, "Read between the lines." The lines were blank there, and the lines are blank here in terms of employment of laid-off workers in Ontario.

I want to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology how he thinks the budget—and this goes on and on, layoff after layoff, in all parts of Ontario; the party that supported the government has it going on in its own communities.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Mr. Pope:** Can the minister explain how the budget and the speech from the throne are going to help the 358 laid-off workers at International Harvester in Hamilton, the 271 workers laid off at Dominion Stores in Toronto, the 200 laid-off miners at Rio Algom in Elliot Lake and the 134 laid-off workers at Weston Bakeries?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have drawn to the attention of many members that a considerable amount of time is taken when members propose three-part, four-part, five-part or six-part questions. I think the member just did that.

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** I suppose the member would find it pretty hard to get an answer when he is here only a couple of days of the week, but I will try to give him some of our statistics.

Those statistics read that the unemployment rate is 6.8 per cent, the lowest it has been in many years. It is down by two per cent from last year, when the member's party was here. There are approximately 183,000 more people working.

Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology figures show that export sales are up by 23 per cent as of the end of February, new plant

openings are up by 48 per cent and technology centre contracts are up by 32 and 26 per cent. Those are the figures to quote.

**Mr. Pope:** The minister is supercilious.

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** That member is the one who is supercilious.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I ask all members to come to order and to stay in order.

#### TRITIUM EXPORTS

**Mrs. Grier:** I have a question for the Minister of Energy. It relates to the assurances the minister has given this House that any tritium exported by Ontario Hydro would be for peaceful purposes only.

If this glass represents the total amount of tritium available needed for peaceful purposes in the world, then the pitcher, which is eight times larger, represents the amount of tritium Ontario Hydro is likely to produce next year.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Mrs. Grier:** Can the minister tell the House how he intends to guarantee that the excess tritium will not be used for weapons research?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** Ontario Hydro has options after it starts removing tritium from heavy water to protect the workers in our Candu reactors, which is Hydro's first responsibility. Hydro has not suggested at this time that it is going to be selling tritium. There is also the option of allowing the tritium to deteriorate. The commitment I made was that if Hydro were to consider the sale of tritium at any time, we would not allow it to be used for anything other than peaceful purposes.

**Mrs. Grier:** The point is how. Does the minister not realize that there are no safeguards to prevent the displacement of existing tritium by new tritium and the allowance of the use of that existing tritium for weapons research and that Hydro is negotiating for contracts with laboratories that do fusion and weapons research? Does he not agree that the only solution is a ban on the export of tritium?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I have suggested there will be no way that tritium used for peaceful purposes could be displaced for any other reason. I cannot give any more assurance than that. I renew my assurance to the honourable member that I will undertake that it will not be used for any other purpose.

In the first instance, Ontario Hydro is removing the tritium to safeguard our workers, which is the main purpose. There is a good possibility it



could be left to deteriorate. No action has been taken in that sense. But I give the unequivocal undertaking that no tritium will be used to displace tritium in the United States or anywhere else for anything other than peaceful purposes.

#### POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Mr. McFadden:** I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Is the minister satisfied with the level of funding allocated to colleges and universities in Tuesday's budget?

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** If the question is whether I am satisfied that the universities and colleges of this province now have sufficient revenues after 10 years of underfunding, the answer is no. If it is whether I am satisfied with the provisions in the budget, the answer is yes.

The budget provided a commitment to a long-term faculty renewal program: 500 new faculty members in our universities. In addition to the excellence funds that have already been provided, it committed revenue to the tune of \$15 million for research. The answer is yes.

**Mr. McFadden:** I find that response interesting, since the universities, faculties and the Ontario Federation of Students have expressed their strong dismay at the government's failure to provide an adequate increase in operating grants to the universities.

In recent months the minister has visited university after university, stating very eloquently at times that the universities were going to have a priority under the current government. Have colleges and universities now lost that priority, or did the priority exist only in the minister's mind?

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** I thank my friend the member for Eglinton for suggesting that now and again on a university campus I have been rather eloquent in my support of university education in this province. Whether or not I have been eloquent, post-secondary education is a very high priority for this government, as exemplified by the increases in support we have provided for these institutions since coming to office.

**Mr. Gillies:** That is four per cent. Not even inflation.

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** The member refers to four per cent; the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) announced in his budget of October 24, 1985, that the increment for operating grants for this fiscal year would be four per cent.

In my discussions with university officials, with the Ontario Federation of Students and with

many others—I know, Mr. Speaker, you want me to finish up here—I have asserted to them that four per cent would be the operating grant and that our initiative otherwise would be targeted towards specific projects.

3 p.m.

#### NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology in regard to the relevance of a \$100-million technology fund for northern Ontario. The minister must recognize we do have two Ontarios, a southern Ontario that is growing in its economy, while thousands of workers are losing their jobs in the north. How much of the \$100-million technology fund for this year will be spent in northern Ontario to support those secondary industries we need?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** I would like to assure the member from the north that priority will be given to the whole province, but especially to the north and the east, to do something towards generating jobs in all those areas. When we are looking at the choice of people who will serve on that council and when we are looking at the disbursement of funds, the north will be high in our minds.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** I do not believe that answered the question on how much will be spent in the north. Maybe we can get to specifics. On several occasions, I talked to the minister about the possibility of locating a forest products technology centre in Sault Ste. Marie to support the development of secondary industry related to our forest resource in the north. Can the minister commit to the development of such a technology centre in northern Ontario to support the vital job-generating and value-added jobs we need in secondary industry there?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** I appreciate the discussions we have had and the suggestions the member has made. The council is not complete yet as to the people who will serve on it or where the funds will be going. However, I can assure the member again that the north will have a high priority.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has a response to a question previously asked by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel).

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** Yesterday, the member for Sudbury East, in a supplementary question, asked me a question. When I stood up to answer



it, there were many interjections. You called for order, Mr. Speaker, and I sat down, expecting you would invite me to respond. Instead, you called for a new question. Therefore, I am going to take this opportunity to respond to the member.

The question was about the price differential of gasoline in the north vis-à-vis southern Ontario. Last July, the Premier directed the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) to do a study. That study is now complete and is being reviewed. As well, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) is going to be conducting hearings in the north to get some input there so we can address the problem.

**Mr. Martel:** Nowhere has the minister answered the question. When we were dealing in gallons, the price differential between the north and the south was anywhere from five to eight cents a gallon. The conversion to litres finds the gas companies charging almost the same difference per litre between the south and the north as they did in gallons. We are now paying 25 to 30 cents a gallon more in 1986, when we were paying a difference of only five or six cents a gallon. Why has that ripoff has been allowed to go on for these many years?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** That question is an interesting one and it is one that is going to be addressed. Rather than put it in finite terms of six cents and 30 cents, if we deal with percentages, it would be a lot easier to understand because the whole pricing structure has gone up. That is a function of the marketplace.

**Mr. Martel:** Do not give me that nonsense.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. McFadden:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara). I see the minister must have had a premonition that I was going to ask the question because he left the precincts of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do you wish to redirect it to anyone else?

**Mr. McFadden:** I will stand down my question until the minister returns.

**Mr. Speaker:** Fine, the member for Nickel Belt.

**Mr. Laughren:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Sterling:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** He was asking to stand down the question. If he does not want to stand it down, then the member for Carleton-Grenville.

## ONTARIO HUMANE SOCIETY

**Mr. Sterling:** I have a question for the Solicitor General. Can he tell us whether his ministry has finally given to the Ontario Humane Society the funds it was requesting from him since the late part of last year? I brought this to the minister's attention some time ago.

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** We have not forwarded to the society the sums of money that it has requested or referred to. We have made a written offer to advance the funds that were there last year. We have invited it to make application for those funds. We have also asked it to come in and discuss the matter further if this is not satisfactory.

**Mr. Sterling:** Three weeks ago I drew this matter to the minister's attention in this Legislature and asked him to pay the president of the Ontario Humane Society the courtesy of giving him a phone call. Why has he not made that phone call?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** Why does the minister not make a phone call? I have made a lot of them since then, but we have not had any response yet from that society, even to acquire the money we have made available to it.

## COMPUTERIZED MAPPING SYSTEM

**Mr. Laughren:** My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Yesterday the minister announced that he was going to engage his ministry in a process of computerizing the mapping system in Ontario and that it would create 135 to 200 high-technology jobs and an additional 250 related jobs for Ontarians.

May I have the assurance of the minister with absolute certainty that those jobs will be in northern Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I cannot give that kind of assurance, but that is a very good question about the need for those kinds of jobs in northern Ontario. I will take that into account when we go forward with this very important study on digital mapping.

**Mr. Laughren:** I agree it is a good question. Can the minister indicate one single reason, given that we have technology in the north and the mining industry in the north, and given that the first set of maps that are to be done are for northern Ontario, why he cannot give us assurances those jobs will all be in northern Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I thought I also had a very good answer. I will give the member the undertaking that we will provide as many jobs as



we can because of the direction by our Premier (Mr. Peterson) that we are going to do everything we can to provide employment in northern Ontario.

There may be very good reasons that some of them have to come from other parts of Ontario, but I will give him the assurance that we will do everything we can to provide as many jobs as possible in that undertaking in northern Ontario.

#### CHEESE FACTORY

**Mr. Villeneuve:** It has now been more than a month since the Premier visited the St. Albert cheese factory in eastern Ontario and promised to review the milk quota situation, oriented towards an increase in quota. How much additional quota has he been able to obtain for St. Albert recently?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I thank the honourable member for his new-found interest in that co-op. I have turned the matter over to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), and he will be happy to discuss it with him.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** It is amazing that the Minister of Agriculture and Food told us he could do nothing.

La direction de la Fromagerie de la coop de St. Albert a visité, la semaine dernière, la Commission ontarienne de commercialisation du lait. Ils ont eu une réduction dans leurs quotas. Qu'est devenue votre promesse d'au moins regarder la situation pour essayer de l'améliorer?

**L'hon. M. Peterson:** Je me souviens d'avoir dit que je discuterais du problème avec le ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (M. Riddell). Je l'ai fait et comme le député le sait, il existe plusieurs problèmes relatifs aux quotas du lait, pas seulement à St. Albert, mais aussi dans les autres régions de la province. Ils ont également d'autres problèmes, des problèmes environnementaux, et j'en ai discuté avec les ministres qui sont responsables de ces problèmes.

Comme le député le sait, je n'ai pas promis de résoudre le problème des quotas. J'ai dit que j'en discuterais avec le ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation. C'est une situation très compliquée, mais elle n'est pas unique à St. Albert. C'est la même situation dans les autres coops, particulièrement dans l'Est de l'Ontario. C'est une situation difficile. En ce moment, il est impossible de la résoudre.

3:10 p.m.

#### INSURANCE RATES

**Mr. Swart:** I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Financial Institutions. Earlier this

week, I asked him about intervention by his ministry to slow down or halt the escalation of insurance rates. At that time, he replied partly by saying, "We are looking into the rates."

What exactly did the minister mean when he said he was looking into those rates? Is it just going to be an academic exercise, or will he use the results to hold down those rates or roll them back if he finds the rate increases have been unreasonable?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The member raises a couple of questions.

As a result of the Slater committee report, we are taking a look at various recommendations. We are having representations made to us in response to the report. Part of that representation will be on the rate structure. We will look at it to see whether there should be any government intervention.

**Mr. Swart:** In view of the fact this report will not be out until July 31 and cannot be dealt with until the fall; given that in his report Slater indicated the insurance companies have overreacted in their rate increases; and given that insurance companies have not and will not justify their present rates, why does the minister not intervene now and take action to hold down those rates?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The member makes some assumptions that are not in the report. Dr. Slater does not say the companies have overreacted. He is suggesting they may have overreacted, and that is what we are trying to find out. When we do, we will respond.

#### WEED HARVESTING

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Natural Resources has a response to a question asked by the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve).

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I would like to respond to the member and apologize to him at the same time. When he raised the question, I thought he was asking about wheat harvesting. He was really suggesting weed harvesting. I thought he properly should have put the question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell).

For the past two summers, the Ministry of Natural Resources has funded aquatic plant harvesting in Lake St. Francis to clear it for boat traffic. The project was intended only as a demonstration; so the funds provided were on a short-term basis. Those funds are now needed for other priority projects and will not be available for further weed harvesting.



**Mr. Villeneuve:** In the speech from the throne, this government mentioned the town of Lancaster and tourism in eastern Ontario. Is this the same government that is now taking away one of our best tourist promotions to bring in American and Quebec light watercraft and encouraging them go to some of the commercial establishments for sports fishing?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** We have to face the realities of weed harvesting. When we do those things to encourage boating, we do it strictly to be able to do the research on it. If it is to be ongoing across this province, it will have to be undertaken by others. We support tourism and everything to further that industry in Ontario, but that is one initiative we did on that basis and cannot do any longer.

**Mr. Pope:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The Minister of Natural Resources says that in the past two years the weed harvesting program was experimental. As the minister at the time, I say that is not true.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not a point of privilege; it is not a point of order; it is a point of view.

#### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**Mr. Jackson:** My question is for the Premier. On May 5, he advised us he would investigate the selective recruitment practices of his ministries for the Ontario public service internship program, which effectively denied most of Ontario's post-secondary graduates the opportunity to apply for about 100 highly coveted public service jobs.

Given that the Minister of Colleges and Universities was able to investigate his practices and that he acknowledged in this House the unfairness and extended the deadlines for his postings almost overnight, will the Premier please advise us what he has done in regard to this in the last 10 days?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** We have had a thorough investigation. I will ask the minister in charge of everything around here to respond to the member.

**Ms. Caplan:** The human resources secretariat was responsible for designing the internship program to which the honourable member has referred. Each ministry was responsible for advertising the program based on the needs and the area where the ministry was going to be doing its search.

In response to the investigation I undertook, we requested all ministries, in order to ensure the widest possible distribution and the widest

possible opportunities for our youth, to extend the deadlines for 10 days and ensure that all the colleges that had not been notified—if they had not been, although, in fact, each of the colleges and universities was notified by letter at the time of the program—were given additional time to encourage all applications wherever the jobs have not been already filled. For the majority of jobs, the deadlines have been extended.

**Mr. Jackson:** It is very clear that this whole project was mismanaged to the extent that even now there are universities that have not received the full list of postings and that many, if not all, the various ministry postings have been closed. In some instances, appointments have been made.

My question to the Premier—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is not to the Premier; it is to the minister.

**Mr. Jackson:** Will the Chairman of Management Board be opening up the postings that have already been closed? In other words, where a person has been given the posting—

**Mr. Speaker:** You have asked the question; now you are explaining it. The question has been asked.

**Ms. Caplan:** Let me clarify further. The area of search by each ministry reflected the location of the position in question and the area of the speciality of the institution. Unsolicited applications were also accepted by the ministries. Where jobs have not been filled, and that is the majority, we have extended the deadline for 10 days, in response to the member, to ensure that the widest possible opportunities were available for the 100 jobs in this internship program. In fact, all the institutions knew about this program and the ministries were directed to give as wide an access as they possibly could.

#### RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

**Ms. Gigantes:** My question was intended for the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling). In his absence, I will direct it to the Attorney General, who helped me understand the last answer I had from the Minister of Housing.

Twenty-eight days ago, Mrs. Carol Throop appeared before the city of Ottawa committee of adjustment and argued that her rented family row home should not be severed and sold. That was the second time in a year and a half it had happened to the family. If Mrs. Throop applies in the next two days for an appeal through the Ontario Municipal Board process and is turned



down again, can she then appeal to cabinet under the provisions of Bill 11?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** That is a question for the Minister of Housing, who is not here today. I will refer it to him and he will provide an answer to the honourable member when he returns.

**3:20 p.m.**

**Ms. Gigantes:** When the Attorney General is referring this matter to the Minister of Housing, I wonder whether he could point out that there are 13 units in the row of town houses where the Throop family currently lives and that the secretary of Ottawa's committee of adjustment said it would cost Mrs. Throop \$100 to appeal to the OMB and that the appeal would deal only with her unit, not with the whole row. Does this mean that Bill 11 will offer the hope of protection only for rental units on a one-by-one basis?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I think I got the sense of the honourable member's question. I undertake to bring those facts to the attention of the minister and I am sure he will provide the answer the member requires.

**Ms. Gigantes:** By Saturday?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Premier has a response to a question previously asked by the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague), but the member is not here.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** He was just here. Did he disappear? He will want to hear the answer to his penetrating question.

**Mr. Harris:** Wait until he comes back—the same as we do when ministers are not here.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Fine. If the member wants to rally him, I will give my answer when he comes back.

#### POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Mr. McFadden:** I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Yesterday, my colleague the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) asked whether the minister could provide to the House information as to what portion of the capital expenditures allocated for colleges and universities was allocated to colleges and what portion was allocated to universities. At that time, the minister indicated he was not sure how the capital expenditures were allocated. Is he now in a position to tell us how the \$59 million allocated for capital expenditures has been allocated between colleges and universities?

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** I am glad my friend from Eglinton asked that question, because I want to

clarify some of the information that was provided yesterday to my friend from Don Mills. At that time, she referred to a figure of \$59 million that was presented in the budget—

**Miss Stephenson:** This friend is from York Mills.

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** I am sorry. I do have a friend in Don Mills as well, but York Mills will do. Wherever he is, or whatever Mills it is—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Please disregard the interjections. Answer the question.

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** The \$59 million that is represented as capital for the purposes of the budget will be allocated approximately \$45 million to universities and the balance to colleges.

With respect to the figure that was quoted yesterday by my friend from one of those Mills—a \$60-million figure for 1984-85—that was one view of the allocations. I am told—

**Mr. Harris:** Oh no, that has nothing to do with the question. The minister is answering questions raised in the budget debate yesterday.

**Mr. Gregory:** He should answer the question or sit down.

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** I believe it is pertinent to the question asked. The member for Eglinton (Mr. McFadden) raised it, and I am trying to provide a response that is reasonable.

**Mr. Speaker:** I presume you can do it very briefly.

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** Mr. Speaker, you will know, as well as I, that capital can be new buildings or a new piece of equipment. The analysis that my ministry officials have presented me with is that in 1984-85, according to their calculations, including equipment, somewhat more than \$60 million was spent on capital, very broadly defined. With those same very broad definitions, a figure of almost \$74 million in capital will be spent in the current fiscal year.

**Mr. McFadden:** From what the minister is saying, page 39 of the budget statement is misleading. Will the minister outline for the House that \$59 million is not the total figure? Will he please tell the House what the other figures are and where they appear in the budget statement?

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** Perhaps my friend from Eglinton has the same problem as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) in not being an accountant but being a lawyer, a very honourable profession. However, he knows enough about



accounting to realize that capital can be very broadly defined to include new pencils. When one buys a piece of equipment or provides funds for a piece of equipment such as a super-computer, that is clearly capital. When it is instructional equipment in the form of a desktop computer, in some cases it is defined as capital and in other cases it is defined as operating revenue.

Broadly defined, capital spending will be in the neighbourhood of \$74 million. More narrowly defined, the capital, as enunciated in the budget, which is not misleading at all, is \$59 million.

### PENSION FUNDS

**Mr. Mackenzie:** I have a question to the Premier which I hope he will take with the same seriousness as I am in asking it. The question arises as a result of the raid on private pension plans that is occurring in many plants around Ontario.

The Premier will know that the principle of pension payments, pensions or contributions being deferred wages, is one that has been pretty broadly accepted and certainly was accepted when I served on the select committee on pensions some years ago. Is his government now in the process of changing the acceptance of that principle of pensions being deferred wages in Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** The member raises a philosophical question from which stem a number of policy initiatives. The most important issue is how we protect people's income after retirement. I assume the member's question is leading up to the issue of the pension surpluses.

As the member knows, it is an extremely difficult issue that this government has spent a lot of time looking at. One of the problems with the New Democratic Party theory that we should allow no extraction of those funds is that, in a sense, it punishes the successful managers of the funds. It does not do anything for the worker who has a fund which is chronically underfunded or has problems. It does not bring to the system the evenness I would like to see.

The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has been discussing these matters with his colleagues. I think this has provided leadership and that a national consensus is being developed. But the matter of inflation protection is one that, at this moment, is still outstanding.

We believe in an ideal world we would have some uniformity of legislation across the country. I think the member and I share that view. It is

very difficult to be too far out of sync with some of the other provinces, but we will continue to provide the leadership role in that way.

**Mr. McClellan:** I do not think the Premier answered the question on deferred wages. I remind the Premier that yesterday the Treasurer made reference to the 1981 report of the select committee on pensions, on which both the Premier and I sat and supported the recommendations.

Does the Premier not remember the recommendation from that committee, which we both supported, that inflation protection be provided for private sector company plans based on the excess interest approach, which would use the so-called actuarial surpluses that he is now permitting his minister to give to corporations?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I remember that very well. I remember the long discussions. I remember how enjoyable it was, particularly sitting with the member on that committee, because we all gained some insight into these difficult situations.

With respect to excess interest, in general terms I share the same view as the member. That is probably the way to go in that it provides some protection against inflation. That does not necessarily apply to all particular funds, as the member knows. At the moment, the Treasurer has draft legislation out for consultation. It will be coming forward shortly and will enunciate the policies of the government. The member will see a sensitivity registered in that direction.

### TABLING OF INFORMATION

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** On Thursday, May 8, the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague) asked me a question in the House with respect to and implying that we were not prepared to release orders in council 975, 979, 1009, 1014 and 1016, all in 1986.

Let me be specific. Orders in council 975 and 979 of 1986 provide benefits under the Family Benefits Act to particular individuals named in the orders. The home address also appears in the orders. Orders in council 1009, 1014 and 1016 are under various acts and set the salaries for particular individuals.

I could go into great detail on the custom in this regard, but as the member knows, it is customary not to make these things public in order to protect the individual from embarrassment. That was the policy followed by the previous government and it is the policy followed by this government.

3:30 p.m.



It is not a question of things being hidden, it is a matter of wanting to avoid embarrassment to anyone. I think my honourable friend has the impression we are appointing people secretly and doing something weird and wonderful in there. I assure him we are not.

**Mr. McCague:** I thank the Premier for his partial answer. If he checks Hansard, he will find there were several others in that group. I understand the family benefits ones. We were told by his staff that 1014 and 1016 cover salaries for individuals. I do not see why he does not post those.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Mr. McCague:** He can do it through the public accounts, but why does he not do it today, now that he has this open and "all information available to everybody" government?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** The member has obviously changed his mind on these matters, because he did not release these figures when he was in government. I recall the previous leader of his party bringing forward a sunshine law that would have discussed these things and then pulling the bill out. If this is his party's new policy, that is fair enough.

We have taken the view that we have nothing to hide and if we ever embarrass people, that is not our intention. The member and some of his colleagues and researchers are rummaging around the orders in council department trying to find something embarrassing, and he is welcome to come and look in it all the time. We are not hiding anything, but occasionally we have to make judgements about the protection of individuals.

If the member wants to stand up in this House and say that after 42 years his party has changed its policy on these matters, then he should do so.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**Mr. Shymko:** On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: In the light of telephone calls that are being made daily to members of the Legislative Assembly by the media, specifically by one Toronto paper, requesting that we inform them of any activities we may be involved in that constitute a conflict of interest, I want to admit publicly a conflict of interest that I share with all the other members of the House; namely, the fundamental, bottom-line conflict of interest that I am voting on my own salary. As a member of this Legislature, I am placed in the circumstance of voting for my own salary out of public funds, and this constitutes a fundamental conflict of

interest. I would like to hear your comments on this, sir.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** If you step outside you can avoid it, but there does not seem to be any rush for the door.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** We can let the judges set the salary. How would that do?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. After listening to the member for High Park-Swansea, I suppose I should listen to other members; however, I fail to see how that is a point of privilege, as I understand privilege.

**Mr. McClellan:** Maybe I can make a suggestion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. McClellan:** Speaking to the point of order, I think an important concern has been raised by the member. I suggest that it be referred to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly.

**Mr. Speaker:** I fail to see it is a point of privilege and, therefore, feel I cannot accept a motion.

#### PETITIONS

##### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Pollock:** I have before me a petition signed by members of the Ontario Motor League who live in my riding. I want to present the petition to the Premier.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

**Mr. Gregory:** I have a petition signed by 214 residents of Mississauga East:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

#### MOTION

##### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the following changes be made in the order of precedence for private members' public business: the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) for the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Knight) as ballot item 3;



the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Knight) for the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Poirier) as ballot item 6, and the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Poirier) for the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) as ballot item 21; and that the requirement for notice with respect to ballot item 3 be waived.

Motion agreed to.

#### NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

**Mr. Speaker:** Before orders of the day, I wish to inform the members that on Tuesday I announced there would be a debate between the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye), known as a late show. However, that has been rescheduled by the two parties, and the debate will take place next Tuesday evening.

**Mr. Harris:** I designed my whole day around this.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry. I hope you will be here on Tuesday evening.

#### BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. Foulds:** I thought I would take advantage of the new traditions of the House and use the podium that was made available to the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon). It is very comfortable; unfortunately, it does provide a blockage to some other members.

First, I would like to thank a number of people who have helped me with this budget reply: Chuck Rachlis, Diane Bull and Terri Hilborn of the research department of the New Democratic Party here at Queen's Park; Peter Raffo, my constituency researcher, and most especially, Maureen Brown and Jim Mundy, my two legislative assistants here at Queen's Park, who worked tirelessly over the past little while and especially the past two days, late into the evening, to help me prepare for this occasion.

I want also to apologize to the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) for being briefly absent from her remarks yesterday afternoon. I had to take a few moments off to go to a reception for Donald MacDonald, the former leader of the New Democratic Party. I would like to pay tribute to him today because I think all of us, not just the members of my party, recognize that no one has done as much for democratic socialism in Ontario as has Mr. MacDonald. All members of all parties have to admit that he probably led the

fight to democratize this Legislature more than any other single member over the past 30 years.

I want to start by saying I believe this is a neutral budget. It does not add any glaring unfairnesses to our present economic situation as have many Conservative budgets of the past 10 or 15 years, aided and supported by the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) and the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier). Unfortunately, however, this budget has not taken any bold economic steps towards fairness.

We in this party are voting for it for two very simple reasons: (1) We gave our word we would not vote on a no-confidence motion in this government for a two-year period, and only one year has passed. (2) The budget itself does not positively harm people as have many Conservative budgets that we have had to live with over the past 10 or 15 years. In this budget, the main question is, what is there to vote against? The answer is, not very much. I must tell the Treasurer in all seriousness, we in this caucus find little to vote for.

**3:40 p.m.**

I have said it is a neutral budget, but the trouble with having one's car or tractor in neutral is very simple. If one pushes down on the accelerator, one does not go anywhere. In this case, the budget gives a tremendous impression of action by revving up the engine madly, but the vehicle stands still. The Treasurer has decided to keep his hands off the provincial economy; he has decided neither to guide it nor to put it into gear.

It is true that Ontario looks to provincial budgets for such housekeeping matters as taxes on tobacco and alcohol, sales tax, income tax rates and so on. However, Ontario also expects more from its Minister of Economics. Budgets must also set forth the economic direction and overall strategy for economic development. On that, like the last one, this budget fails miserably.

I feel compelled to contrast the role that the Treasurer sees for government in the economy and the role that we in the New Democratic Party see. In his speech, the Treasurer said, "The role of government is to help Ontario business get on with that job"—that job being to create a competitive economy—"and to manage the province's own affairs in an efficient and cost-effective manner."

In my party, we believe that second role belongs to the public service under the guidance of the government. Surely the Minister of Economics should accept more responsibility for the economic future and development of this province than the Treasurer's statement would



indicate. Like Conservative Treasurers before him, unfortunately, he has abdicated his responsibility.

People are our greatest resource. People built this province. There were people in Ontario long before there was capital, long before there were multinational corporations and long before there was government. This province was not built on capital, it was not built on corporate tax expenditures and, goodness knows after two examples, it will not be built on Liberal budgets.

The economy of this province exists for one reason, and that is to produce wealth for all. Only a democratic government that intervenes in a meaningful way can improve the lives of people collectively so that each may have the good life individually. It falls to the government to help replace poverty and misery with security and happiness and to replace the fears of the present with hope for the future.

Therefore, the provincial government, as does the federal government, has special responsibilities to the people who elect it. It has a responsibility to help people develop and guide their destinies and their economy, to help provide jobs and eradicate poverty and to help people find their rewards in the work place and in our society. The government's responsibility is to show leadership, courage and initiative. We believe that as parliamentarians and as democratic socialists. This Liberal budget says, "We may do that," "Later" and "Maybe."

I saw the Treasurer's picture on the front page of the *Globe and Mail* yesterday, looking very satisfied with himself; indeed, he still appears to be quite satisfied. The Treasurer should remember the words of Thomas Edison, "Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure." To fail is one thing. To be content in that failure is quite another.

Here was a missed opportunity if ever there was one in Ontario. While the polls demonstrate that this government is quite popular, what the polls do not tell us and what this government does not know is why. All the Liberals know is that they are popular, and they are scared stiff of doing anything to undermine that popularity. Therefore, in the throne speech and in the budget, they showered us with platitudinous verbiage on the one hand and, all too often, silence on important matters on the other.

When is this government going to tell the people of Ontario what it actually stands for and where it plans to lead Ontario, or is that too much to expect of Liberals? Do they plan to be led

merely by circumstances as they indicate in the budget?

For example, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) tells us there is a desperate need for child care. He said, "The critical issues with respect to child care are to have sufficient spaces so that parents can make a choice and to have them structured in such a way that all parents who use child care can afford to do so." The Treasurer finds \$6 million to address this problem. He knows, and everybody in the province knows, that \$100 million is needed.

In other words, the Treasurer knows, as the people of this province know and as this Legislature knows, there are really two Ontarios in this province: the haves and the have-nots. Among the haves are corporations and people earning substantially more than a living wage; people such as the doctors, whose average income is \$120,000 annually and who are handled with kid gloves. Among the have-nots are (1) the working poor, people subsisting below the poverty line and still, after this budget, paying income tax and Ontario health insurance plan premiums; (2) welfare recipients, people who pay out a large part of their meagre incomes on housing and sales tax; and (3) residents of northern Ontario, where industries are slowing down and closing faster than the Premier (Mr. Peterson) can knot his nifty Liberal red tie.

The Treasurer's document does little to reduce the imbalance between the two Ontarios. The meagreness of the changes to corporate tax and the extension of the surtax on the well-off are matched only by the poverty of positive measures for the disadvantaged of our province.

While the Treasurer plans to get another \$29 million from corporations with his changes to the capital tax over the next two years, his changes to the OHIP premium assistance will still leave him taking \$278 million in OHIP and taxes over the same period from the pockets of people living below the poverty line. In a province where we are told the economy is buoyant and revenues are buoyant, families and individuals who work and subsist below the poverty line still pay health premiums and income tax; yet people with higher incomes in this province, people who can afford to pay accountants, can still get away without paying any income tax at all.

**Mr. Warner:** It is shameful.

**Mr. Foulds:** As my colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere indicates, that is shameful.

For social assistance recipients, the Treasurer has found \$25 million for 50,000 families to help



them pay their rent—\$41.66 per month; 41 lousy bucks—while he continues to let corporations defer payment of \$246 million in taxes every year. There is a whole other Ontario which this Treasurer and the Liberals chose to ignore. If they did not ignore it, they acknowledged it, tipped their hats and walked by on the other side of the street.

The Treasurer came to a crossroads. Unlike any other treasurer in Canada, he found himself in the challenging position of being able to do good things for the people of Ontario who have borne the brunt of the most recent recession—the worst economic depression, between 1981 and 1985, we have experienced since the 1930s. That economic depression was aided and abetted by the budgetary policies and the legislation of the previous Conservative administration, supported by the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) and the member for Kenora, who are not here this afternoon.

**3:50 p.m.**

The present Liberal Treasurer had come to a point in his long and honourable career where he could have said in a very real way, not merely with words, that fairness is important. He had the opportunity to tell the single mother of two receiving family benefits: "You are important. If you want to work and are able to work, here is the child care you need. If you are unable to work, here is enough money to raise your children with dignity."

He could have said to the young man working for \$4.50 an hour: "You, too, are important to me. I know you work hard for your pay and still live below the poverty line, and that is not right. My government does not have the courage to do anything about a labour market that forces people to subsist on \$4.50 an hour, but I can help a little by no longer taking taxes and Ontario health insurance plan premiums off your cheque and out of your pocket, because you are important."

He could have stood proudly in this Legislature and given the people of our north some specific, new and concrete plan of action to stop the current savage attack on their economy. He could have said to them: "I know you get a raw deal from the multinationals. I realize your tax dollars have helped strengthen the infrastructure of the south while yours has been left to wither."

He could even have scored a political point or two by pointing out that the transfer of wealth and the withering of the economy were presided over by the previous Conservative administration. He could have said: "I am aware that the north has made great contributions to this province, and it

will continue to do so. Here is the investment capital you need. Build a strong industrial base. Show us what you northerners are made of. Be the success stories that we know you can be and that the Tories, supported by their northern members over these past 42 years, from Kenora to Cochrane North, refused to let you be."

The Treasurer could have said: "Do not worry. When you begin to share in the prosperity that is Ontario, our investment in you will be paid back 100-fold." But no, the man whose job it is to provide economic leadership to the people turned away. He took the easy route out. He said instead, "I know things are tough, but what can a self-proclaimed parsimonious old farmer do?"

He could have done a lot better, because this government, in this second budget, has turned its back on the poor, the disadvantaged and the people of the north. The government had the opportunity to blaze a new trail. For the first time in some 42 years of government, it could have shown some leadership, shown some compassion and shown it was more than the manager of the present situation. Instead, the government chose to follow the road that leads from Lindsay through London, Brampton, Muskoka and St. Andrew-St. Patrick into oblivion.

Let me now turn to what may be the most important economic challenge facing Ontario today. That challenge is the prospect of a free trade arrangement with the United States.

The Premier has been very successful at getting headlines for being critical of free trade and for standing up for Ontario's interests. But keep in mind that the Premier and the Liberals of this province have never said no to Brian Mulroney on free trade.

The Premier has never discussed the alternatives to free trade. Keep in mind that in Ontario the Conservatives and the Liberals joined forces on the select committee on economic affairs in support of the Mulroney initiatives. The free trade train has already left the station, and the Liberal Party is on board. They have not taken a seat yet, because they cannot decide whether to ride on the engine or on the caboose.

What is the alternative to free trade? It cannot be some kind of Fortress Canada. It cannot be Canadian isolationism. The problems within the trading world are real and growing. The rising tide of American protectionism is a threat.

New Democrats outlined an alternative in our dissent from the Liberal-Conservative majority on the select committee on economic affairs. We proposed a four-point program for fair trade.



First, we proposed establishing a bilateral trade mechanism to resolve those specific trade disputes between Canada and the United States. After all, we have a permanent bilateral mechanism for resolving specific problems along our joint international waterways. It is called the International Joint Commission. Why cannot we have an international joint trade commission to settle specific trade disputes between Canada and the US, such as in lumber?

Second, we as a government would be closely monitoring US trade developments, including providing support for Canadian companies and producers in their trade disputes with American interests. For example, what support has our provincial government—or our federal government, for that matter—given to the lumber producers of this province?

Third, we need a broader trade strategy to recognize that our many problems with the US are handled better in a multilateral context. We are not alone among nations feeling the pinch of US protectionism, but with the exception of one other country, Israel, we are alone in seeking a bilateral solution.

Finally, and most fundamentally, we have to start solving our economic challenges ourselves rather than seeking a continental answer. Elements of a Canadian and Ontario strategy include: (1) import substitution, (2) domestic content, (3) a diversification of our trade outside the US and (4) building Canadian industry through Canadian investment.

The auto pact is an example of the type of negotiating we ought to be doing, not only with the Americans but also with others who want to sell in the Canadian market. The auto pact needs to be expanded and upgraded to include other offshore producers from Europe and the Pacific countries. We have not heard one word from the Premier on that in suggesting what the federal government should do.

We have to bargain for Canadian content and adopt a policy of fair trade, not only with the US but also with all other trading nations of the world. After all, we are a trading nation ourselves. It is this type of agreement, such as the auto pact, that we need to cover other producers such as those who produce hospital supplies and mining machinery.

In short, we need to combine an imaginative strategy for Canadian economic development with a determination to bargain much more toughly for Canadian jobs. What does the Treasurer's most important economic document say about our most important economic chal-

lenge, free trade? As I read that single paragraph, it continues in the tradition of the Premier, the tradition of bafflegab and doubletalk.

This government wants to "secure and enhance access to American markets." However, it says it will not give up anything to get it. It expresses concern without stating exactly what it is going to do to protect Ontario's position.

It would appear that Mackenzie King's ghost has left Kingsmere and has moved to Queen's Park. I hear the late Prime Minister's voice echoing softly across this chamber: "Free trade if necessary, but not necessarily free trade."

I would like to move to the area of tax fairness. In his statement, the Treasurer made a passing reference to tax fairness. He suggested the federal capital gains tax exemption not only costs Ontario \$130 million but also "undermines the fairness of the tax system." He insinuated that, unfair as it may be, there was nothing he could do about it. However, he neglected to mention that he could do one of two things. He could do as Quebec has done: opt out of the tax-collection agreement with the federal government and levy his own capital gains tax. If he does not want to upset Mr. Wilson, his new-found friend, by doing that, he could introduce succession duties. That is what I am recommending.

**4 p.m.**

Has it slipped his mind that succession duties were phased out in 1979 by the then Treasurer, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), who claimed the introduction of capital gains tax at the federal level eliminated the need for succession duties? The Treasurer has the authority to introduce succession duties, but he did not take this modest step towards fairness. Now that we are eliminating capital gains tax at the federal level, surely a provincial succession duties tax makes sense.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** They are not quite eliminated.

**Mr. Foulds:** They are on their way. The Treasurer knows it.

Our estimates are that a succession duties regime similar to the one phased out in 1979 would yield \$108 million annually. Our suggested succession duties would exempt inter-generational transfers of family farms and estates worth less than \$500,000. That is only one New Democratic Party proposal.

The work of New Democrats federally and provincially has demonstrated that the present tax system is grossly unfair, especially to the working poor. Much of it is regressive and it is becoming increasingly so. There is a continuing



shift away from corporate taxation towards increased taxes on people.

To illustrate this point, one need only look at chart C7 in last year's budget and compare it to chart C7 in this year's. Last year, personal income tax accounted for 25 per cent of provincial revenues, while corporate taxes accounted for 10 per cent. The pie graph on C7 shows clearly that this year corporate taxes remained steady and account for 10 per cent of the provincial revenues, while personal taxes account for 27 per cent. In other words, that injustice, that imbalance in the taxation system which started 20 or more years ago continues in the province under this Liberal government.

Low-income earners earn much less and get far fewer breaks than more affluent individuals. Even with the Treasurer's new announcements, people living below the poverty line find themselves paying substantial income tax and Ontario health insurance plan premiums.

In an effort to begin a program of reform, New Democrats would altogether eliminate provincial income tax and OHIP premiums for Ontarians below the poverty line. For a family of four at the poverty line of \$20,821, it would mean savings of \$802.90 in income tax and \$714 in OHIP premiums. That would put about \$1,500 back into their pockets and into the economy. For a single parent with two children at the poverty line of \$18,068, this would mean savings of \$625 in income tax and, again, \$714 in OHIP premiums. That goes to show what a regressive tax OHIP premiums are. The Treasurer took no steps at all to eliminate that most regressive tax, which was a promise of the Liberal Party during the election campaign. That step alone, suggested by the New Democrats, would put more than \$1,300 into the pockets of families who need and would use and spend that money.

The cost of these two reforms would be \$262 million, no small amount but still less than the government continues to forgo in deferred taxes to the corporate sector each year.

**Mr. Martel:** Corporate welfare bums.

**Mr. Foulds:** Those deferred taxes amount to \$276 million annually. They are, as my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) says, the real welfare bums of this country and this province. They are the worst corporate welfare bums one could expect.

These taxes are, in effect, interest-free loans to the corporate sector by the working poor who pay taxes and OHIP premiums. What we should do is charge an interest cost for those deferred taxes. Let us say we charge them prime rate plus one per

cent. A modest suggestion made by a very good Liberal, Eric Kierans.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** A very fine gentleman.

**Mr. Foulds:** Very fine. The Treasurer should take up his idea because if Eric Kierans's idea was adopted, it would have one of two effects: either those deferred taxes would be paid right back into the provincial coffers, because corporations could get the money from the private sector probably at a lower cost—that is, at the prime rate—or the government would reap substantial interest payments on the outstanding capital amount. No matter which occurred, the increased revenue would go a long way to addressing the unfairness in the current taxation system.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Not a bad idea.

**Mr. Martel:** It is much better than Sinc Stevens's idea.

**Mr. Foulds:** It is a lot better than any idea that Sinc Stevens would ever suggest.

**Mr. Martel:** Interest-free loans.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That is right; kick a fellow when he is down.

**Mr. Martel:** It could not happen to a nicer guy.

**Mr. Foulds:** We used to kick him when he was up as well.

We would close other such corporate tax loopholes and require corporations in our province to pay at least 50 per cent of the applicable statutory tax rate. They do not have to do that now. This would eliminate the situation whereby successful corporations avoid paying corporate taxes or pay less than 50 per cent of the applicable tax rate. We would increase the statutory rate to 16 per cent, bringing Ontario into line with British Columbia, Manitoba and Newfoundland, and still behind Tory Saskatchewan, in their minimum applicable statutory rates.

What is more, the New Democrats would immediately establish a minimum tax on high-income earners. I would not for a moment suggest that these measures are enough, but they do represent a number of desperately needed steps towards tax fairness.

I am reminded at this point of something Tommy Douglas said, when I think of a question the Treasurer will surely want to put to me, as he heckles across the floor, when I start talking about increasing programs and developing jobs. When Tommy Douglas was asked where he got the money to increase Saskatchewan's budget in the 1940s from \$30 million to \$40 million and at the same time reduce by \$21 million the deficit



inherited from a Liberal government, he replied, "We got the money from the only place I know where to get it: from those who have it."

That is what tax fairness is all about. It is taxing those who have it, not those who do not; taxing those who have it to share with those who have not, not the other way around. That is not some wild-eyed socialism; it is responsible socialism. It is also simple economic common sense.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It is the slogan, "Make the rich pay." Which party was using that?

**Mr. Foulds:** If the Treasurer wants to mouth a slogan of "make the rich pay," then let the Treasurer do it. We would support him in his drive towards that worthwhile achievement. If he wants to bring in a supplementary budget along those lines, we would certainly support that.

This budget fails to deal adequately with free trade and fair taxation. It does nothing to stop the ripoff of the insurance consumers of Ontario. It fails to stop the gas-price gouging by the major oil companies and to bring northern gas prices under control. It continues to force the consumers of unleaded gas to pay too much in comparison to the price of leaded gas. The housing announcement did not adequately meet the need for decent, affordable housing all over the province, from Kenora to Cornwall and from Toronto to Trenton.

**4:10 p.m.**

Nowhere is the failure greater than in the monumental passivity with which this budget dealt with the northern economy. This is perhaps the most difficult part of the budget for me to deal with because I am committed to the north as an individual, intellectually and emotionally. It is my home. It has always been my home and will always be my home. There is literally no place else in the world I would rather live. I am afraid members will have to bear with me if my anger, frustration and heartbreak come through.

The depressing facts are too well known. For decades the north's economy has been the subject of a boom-and-bust cycle. For years northern Ontario has been used as a resource hinterland, not only by southern Ontario but also by most of the industrialized western world. Within the last 10 years, we have seen a massive loss of jobs in the Sudbury nickel mining operation.

For example, my friend the member for Sudbury East was telling me earlier today that in 1972 at Inco alone hourly rated employees numbered 19,000. Under the Tory government and supported by the member for Cochrane South, who is absent this afternoon, and the

member for Kenora, who is absent this afternoon, and other northern members who are all absent this afternoon, that number of miners has dropped to a mere 6,500 hourly employees.

What did the Tories do through all of that? They put in one government building and started a goat farm. That was their program for reviving and diversifying the economy of northern Ontario. That is what they did when they had the responsibility of doing something to stop the erosion of the north's economy. I find it offensive that the member for Cochrane South had the gall to get up and ask the questions he did earlier this afternoon, when he was the minister responsible in that cabinet and presided over the destruction of the north's economy. That kind of cheap shot and chutzpah has to be heard to be believed. When he was the Minister of Natural Resources, he did little or nothing to stop the erosion of our resource-based economy in northern Ontario.

Let me give a few examples. Since 1977, Ontario's iron mining industry has been gradually dismantled. The previous provincial Conservative government was content to sit back on its fanny and watch it happen.

1. My friend the member for Sudbury East will remember this well. In 1978, there was the shutdown of the Marmoraton Mining Co. at Marmora. It was run by Bethlehem Steel.

2. In 1978 and 1979, there was the shutdown of Steep Rock Resources at Atikokan. It was run by Inland Steel Corp. I can remember sitting in meetings with the member for Sudbury East and with the then Minister of Natural Resources, the current Conservative member for Kenora. The minister was sitting on his hands and wringing them, saying there was nothing he could do to stop that shutdown or to persuade the company to keep it open. There was nothing he could do to insist that the ore that was still valuable and still in the ground should continue to be mined and used in Ontario industry. At that time, there was a need for that iron ore in the steel capacity here in Ontario.

3. In 1979, there was the shutdown of the National Steel Corp. at Capreol. Once again, I remember my colleague the member for Sudbury East, who lives in Capreol, fighting that tooth and nail in this Legislature while the Tories sat idly by.

4. In 1979 and 1980, there was the shutdown of Caland Ore in Atikokan. The Tories had established a one-industry town cabinet committee as a response to the crisis at Inco in the



mid-1970s, but it never met to deal with that crisis or with the subsequent shutdowns.

5. In 1980, there was the closure of Inco's iron ore recovery plant in Capreol.

6. In 1983, there was the termination of the Steep Rock Resources' Bending Lake development project.

7. In 1984, there was the announced shutdown of the Griffith mine at Ear Falls. Its complete and final closure came this year; yet the tax exemption continued to be paid to Stelco by this Liberal government even though Stelco had not lived up to the commitment it had made when it got that tax exemption behind closed doors from the previous government.

8. On January 27, 1986, there was the shutdown of the Inco nickel mine at Shebandowan. That leaves aside the number of layoffs we are now seeing, which I will get to in a moment.

Although these shutdowns made us angry and frustrated, to some extent all of us knew they were understandable because they were mine-related. We all know the first day you put a shovel in the ground to open a mine is also the first day in the death of that mine. Everything that is mined is a nonrenewable resource.

That is why for many years my colleagues from the north, particularly the member for Sudbury East, the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), and I have advocated a northern Ontario heritage fund, a northern Ontario tomorrow fund, so that a portion of the taxes generated by mining development can be put into a fund to provide the capital with which to diversify our economy, especially that of single-industry-resource towns.

This new Liberal government has such a bias towards business. It wants to use that as a catchword and a code word. The government can call them RSDPs, RRSPs or whatever it wants to call them. It can call it a small business diversification fund for those one-industry towns, but it should make sure a portion of that resource tax goes into such a fund, and make it happen now.

It is still not too late. That is what we should be doing right this very minute with the rich gold developments at Hemlo. We should be taking some of that money aside and putting it into a fund such as a heritage fund to diversify the economies of Manitouwadge, Marathon and White River, all of which have had to be expanded by the Hemlo development. We should do it now, not in 20 or 25 years when there is a

crisis because the gold or the ore veins have run out.

**Mr. Martel:** The Liberals voted against the tomorrow fund.

**Mr. Foulds:** My colleague the member for Sudbury East reminds me that when we put forward the amendment to introduce the tomorrow fund as part of the mandate of the Minister of Northern Affairs, now the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Liberals voted against it. What a wonderful thing that would be for that minister to have at his disposal. He would have a fund with which to develop something. Right now, he has to go begging to the cabinet, cap in hand, every time he needs some funds for northern Ontario.

As I said, all those shutdowns in the mining sector were devastating and frustrating. They made us angry, but to some extent we could understand them because they were in the primary resource sector, the extraction sector. They were resources that have a limit.

The situation today is even more frightening because today's attack on the economy of northern Ontario is an attack on the manufacturing sector. The most recent announcements, which affect the closure of the Great Lakes Forest Products waferboard plant in Thunder Bay, the potential closure of the Kimberly-Clark pulp mill in Terrace Bay, which would wipe out that one-industry town because there ain't no other industry there except service industries, and the 1,500 layoffs at Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa, are an attack on the manufacturing sector of northern Ontario.

**4:20 p.m.**

Although the government has set up a study and a committee, which I understand will be reporting shortly, to look at the future of one-industry towns in northern Ontario and although it has appointed Dr. Rosehart to look specifically at the waferboard plant closure in Thunder Bay, there is not a single, solitary, concrete step taken in the Treasurer's budget that would tackle head on, on an emergency basis, the problem of unemployment in northern Ontario.

That unemployment rate is currently 13.2 per cent, twice the provincial average. Added to those three plant layoffs, potential closures and shutdowns I have mentioned, another 4,000 people in Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay, Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie are facing unemployment. The time has come for the government to demonstrate some courage and take some action.

I suggested previously and I want to repeat now that this government should immediately



introduce legislation to allow the imposition of a one-year moratorium on plant closures such as the ones at the waferboard plant in Thunder Bay and the Kimberly-Clark plant in Terrace Bay and on the massive kinds of layoffs such as those facing Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa.

Second, the government should introduce legislation to compel companies to open their books to both the workers and this Legislature. How else can they justify a plant closure? How else can we accept their justification?

Third, having allowed corporations to earn capital from our northern resources, the government must ask this Legislature for the power and authority to have some say in the direction and investment of that capital. A good portion of the capital earned in the north must be reinvested in the north.

We, the people of Ontario, have invested our tax dollars, our investment, in schools, in roads, in municipal buildings and in the infrastructure of our northern municipalities. Our investments, our jobs, our homes and our communities need to be protected. It is time this provincial government enabled our workers and our northern communities to take charge of their own economic destinies.

This government must introduce tough legislation to make the corporations live up to their responsibilities, to reinvest in our province where they have earned their profit from our resources and the labour of our citizens. That is our job as legislators. This government has to tackle this problem head on. The time of begging the multinational corporations is over. We need tough legislation now. The government has the authority; it just does not have the will to bring in the bills. It is the same with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) when it comes to insurance.

It gives me no pleasure to outline the bad news for northern Ontario's economy. The Treasurer himself indicated to me yesterday, however, in response to a question, that he could not guarantee the maintenance of jobs at the Sault, Terrace Bay and Thunder Bay. I can understand that, but what bothered me is that he did not even attempt to try in this budget.

In fact, both the Treasurer and Premier react in much the same way Bill Davis did to the first massive layoffs at Inco in the mid-1970s. They express concern, anxiety and even good intentions, but they do not react with understanding, and all three have shown a marked discomfort, as does the Premier, with northern economic issues.

There is a good reason for that. All of them are southerners. These three men have yet to grasp that the north is special and needs special treatment simply to get equal opportunities. They may understand that intellectually, but they do not understand it in their bones. They do not understand it viscerally or emotionally.

All the citizens of northern Ontario want are the same chance as those in the south, the same chance of an unemployment rate of "only" 6.8 per cent instead of the whopping 13.2 per cent we face. Is it not ironic that we can take pride because we have the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 6.8 per cent? As a general unemployment rate, I find that unacceptable and intolerable.

I remember, as does the Treasurer, the first speech from the throne I attended in 1971. The then Premier said the government was going to make a massive attack on the unacceptably high unemployment rate in the province. Do members know what the unemployment rate in the province was in 1971? It was 4.1 per cent. What was unacceptably high in 1971—6.8 per cent—is unacceptably high in 1986 for a province as rich as this. The overall rate of 13.2 per cent for the north must be more than unacceptably high. To us, it must be and is intolerable.

Northerners just want the same chance for health care and the same chance for their children that those in the rest of the province have; but for the people of the north to get those same chances, the government must be prepared to intervene in the economy. It must be prepared to act. It must be prepared to put the economy in gear.

If the government lets the market do its thing in northern Ontario, it is saying corporate dollars are more important than human labour. It is saying the investments by ordinary people in their homes and in their communities is less important than corporate investment, corporate dollars, corporate confidentiality and corporate profit. If the government lets the market do its thing, people will eventually have to chase those corporate dollars first to southern Ontario, then to the United States and then overseas to the Third World. Our party says no to that economic flight of capital and to forcing our people to chase those dollars for their jobs.

We in the New Democratic Party have some concrete proposals to keep jobs in our northern communities. These proposals are positive and specific, and we have spelled them out in a series of challenge documents. I could go on at great length and quote each document in detail, but I will give only examples from each. I recommend



them as reading for the Treasurer, the Premier, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the Treasury officials.

I want to indicate as an aside that we in this party have also published economic challenge documents for other parts of the province. For example, my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) has prepared an economic challenge for southwestern Ontario. My three Hamilton colleagues will publish the Hamilton challenge, which specifically outlines community-based initiatives in their community. I have seen an advance copy of this document. I am not going to release its details today, because in this section I want to deal with the northern Ontario economic challenge document published by New Democrats.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This sounds like a leak: drip, drip, drip.

**Mr. Foulds:** It is very good stuff. Just as the minister does when he knows he is going to have a budget in a week, we keep the contents quiet.

1. The challenge to Sudbury, which was put out by my colleagues the member for Nickel Belt and the member for Sudbury East, is the first document in this series. In this document, they outline a series of proposals for an integrated nickel complex in Sudbury, as well as new opportunities in energy conservation, food production and processing, health care import replacement and institutional import replacements.

This is not pie-in-the-sky, abstract economic stuff. Using government documents and quoting from the resource strategy and economic analysis branch of the federal Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources, my colleagues outlined 18 specific types and examples of mining equipment that could be manufactured in Sudbury and for which there was and is a market. Three examples include rotary blast hole drills, which are still used in the mining industry in Ontario, safety equipment and parts such as bulldozer attachments. These are all things we import into Canada at present. They are things for which there is a market and for which there could be an export market, if we develop that market.

**4:30 p.m.**

2. The New Democrats, as a result of that challenge issued in 1982 by my colleagues from Sudbury East and Nickel Belt, published a document called Ontario Can Work. In that document, we expanded on the idea they had for developing a mining machinery manufacturing capability as a crown corporation to manufacture not merely mining machinery but machinery,

equipment and parts used in the whole resource sector.

Let me outline the rationale and details of that. While mining and forestry account for a significant portion of Ontario's economic output, neither sector provides the important industrial spinoffs that are vital to a resource-based industrial strategy. The high and growing level of import penetration in the resource machinery sector continues to act as a brake on the Ontario economy. It reduces the resource sector to one of simple extraction.

Despite the fact that Canada's major exports are forest-based products, accounting for 18 per cent of total Canadian exports, the development of the forest machinery industry has lagged far behind other countries, such as Sweden, which have a much smaller domestic base. Despite the fact that Canada is one of the world's chief mineral producers, the country remains one of the largest, if not the largest, importer of mining machinery.

In 1981, for example, Canada imported \$727 million worth of mining equipment, a 229 per cent increase over the previous five years, and our annual trade deficit is about \$600 million, a value of production equivalent to 7,000 jobs.

Although it is unrealistic to expect to wipe out that deficit in a short time, it is clear that specific opportunities, from open-pit mining equipment through classifiers to process furnaces, can be developed. Therefore, the New Democrats would establish a resource machinery corporation to take advantage of the opportunities for import replacement and export development in the resource sectors. The crown corporation would have a mandate to develop industrial opportunities in a variety of resource machinery projects.

For example, Canada's already weak mining machinery base is threatened by the rapid shift of the more technology-intensive end of the machinery spectrum. Ontario production, on the other hand, is being concentrated on the low-technology end which will, in turn, reduce our future options.

Here is where we fundamentally disagree with the government across the way. We believe it is right for the government to get into machinery production. It is right to do that through a crown corporation, because in this instance it is the only way, as the current economic circumstances are showing, that we will develop secondary manufacturing in northern Ontario.

A resource machinery investment program would create thousands of jobs and provide new



industrial opportunities in such centres as Sudbury, Timmins, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie.

3. When my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) outlined an economic strategy for his community on June 13, 1985, he indicated 10 specific steps that could be taken to enhance Sault Ste. Marie's economic potential. I want to quote from two sections.

Under challenge 1, university education and research, the member said: "A well-integrated regional economy is dependent on an educated work force, and the ability to react to technological change. The cost to run Ontario's 16 universities this year totals more than \$1.7 billion. That works out to about \$350 for every taxpayer in this province. Compare that with Algoma University College's budget of \$2.7 million. Dividing by the number of taxpayers in Algoma, we find that only a paltry \$35 per taxpayer is being spent in the Sault. No wonder 95 per cent of our students have to go out of town for their education, most never to return.

"If the Sault is to meet the challenge of attracting new industrial and economic development in this technologically advancing world, we need more university programs and research facilities in fields like metallurgy, forestry, environmental studies, engineering and business administration. As a major population centre in the north, the Sault deserves a better deal than it has received from governments in the past."

The member for Sault Ste. Marie goes on to indicate the potential of the forest and furniture industry in Sault Ste. Marie: "Furniture manufacturing is a labour-intensive craft industry which develops many skills. It lends itself to small business operations and provides another opportunity to displace imported goods. Its success derives from the quality and design and marketing. A development of this industry could be stimulated by a forest products research and design centre."

My colleague the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay) issued his document entitled, *An Economic Challenge for Timiskaming*, in March 1986. He dealt with five specific areas: tourism, mining, forestry, agriculture and small business. In his report, he made 27 specific suggestions to help create jobs. I want to cite a few.

His suggestions to create jobs in his riding included the development of underground mine tours to attract tourists; a tour boat for Lake Timiskaming; establishing a robotics faculty at the Haileybury School of Mines; turning the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission

into a true development agency; making better use of birch as a fuel wood; using new, more productive farm crops, such as canola and hard spring wheat; and establishing a stone-ground flour industry in Timiskaming.

Those are specific, interesting and productive suggestions.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** What happened to the goats?

**Mr. Foulds:** The goats are in Sudbury. The previous government sent them there.

**Mr. Martel:** They have all moved to Manitoulin Island.

**Mr. McClellan:** They have been privatized.

**Mr. Foulds:** As I said, those are only a few of the 27 specific suggestions that he had.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Did we pay for the research that backed that up? You have too many researchers over there. Did you say two in the north and two down here and one to carry your coat?

**Mr. Foulds:** Does the Treasurer want to add something constructive to the debate?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Who did you say did that? Mr. Ramsay?

**Mr. Foulds:** The member for Timiskaming.

**Mr. Martel:** Not Ramsay-Wrye.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Oh, you mean the Mr. Ramsay you have.

**Mr. Foulds:** The current Mr. Ramsay.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The one who is following your speech so closely.

**Mr. Foulds:** Absolutely.

**Mr. McClellan:** He is in committee.

**Mr. Foulds:** In conclusion on this section on northern Ontario, we northern Ontario New Democrats have ideas, we have specifics and we know the north's economy does not have to be as vulnerable as it is. We know we can protect the people of the north. We know we can keep jobs in the north. We know that if we had the tools, we could expand and strengthen the north's industrial base. We know we have the will. We can do it ourselves. We just want the chance to do it.

We must change our way of looking at the north. We can continue, as governments have done since this province began, to look at the north by focusing on its problems and seeing problems as a series of crises to be dealt with individually. This inevitably leads to an ad hoc approach in which we are constantly reacting to circumstances thrust upon us.



We New Democrats say there is another approach, and that is to stress the potential of the north and to see the north as an asset to the entire provincial economy. This approach recognizes that a better use of the north's resources and a diversification of its economy can mean that the north will strengthen the entire economy of the province. If we accept this second approach, it means we must not only cushion the blow of major layoffs, such as the ones we are facing now, but also look beyond these.

**4:40 p.m.**

In other words, let us create a developing and prospering region with stable employment, with good facilities and with a clean environment.

Therefore, we New Democrats say let us adopt programs that will lead to long-term planning at the community, regional and provincial levels. We say northerners and their communities must have more control over the decisions that affect them. We say more of the wealth created through resource development in the north must be reinvested in the north to build strong, diversified communities throughout the north. We say the provincial government must take a leadership role in diversifying the north by decentralizing government offices and by expanding research and development in northern Ontario. We say the provincial government must become directly involved in resource development.

We must add to the jobs we have, not merely protect the ones that exist.

Finally, we say that when closures or layoffs must happen, the investment of the community, the investment of the workers, the investment in our future must be protected.

I remind the Treasurer of the Premier's statement on July 2 last year, the first time he met this House as Premier. He said: "We will also demonstrate that the provincial government has the ability to move the economy and create jobs. We will not sit by and accept the waste of half a million talents."

Saying he would act on the basis of three basic principles, he said directly: "There is no single cure for unemployment. We need a wide variety of tools, including direct job creation." We agree with the Premier and we wish the Treasurer had this year. We disagree with the Treasurer. We believe direct job creation is important not only in the north but throughout our whole province, and he has none of that in his budget.

If it was unacceptable to accept the waste of half a million talents in July 1985 on accepting office, it is just as unacceptable to accept the

waste of 334,000 talents in May 1986, now that they have power.

The best anti-poverty program in the world is not unemployment insurance benefits, social assistance or severance pay. The best anti-poverty program in the world is a job creation program.

This year there was a buoyancy, a small tide in the economic affairs of Ontario, that if the Treasurer and his colleagues had the courage to pursue, they had a wonderful opportunity to improve conditions substantially for the poor, the unemployed and the underemployed all over our province. They could have improved conditions for retail workers earning minimum wage, for single mothers requiring day care, and they could have done something for pay equity for women in the private sector.

This government has yet to grasp the very simple, emotional and psychological truth, that loss of meaningful work means a loss of dignity, a loss of worth, and a loss of a sense of self.

This budget loses sight of the ethical principle that labour is more important than capital. Without labour there is no such thing as wealth, and without work or labour there is no such thing as creativity. The work of the artist, the work of the labourer, the work of a mother, the work of a businessman is the key ingredient in shaping our society and in shaping our very nature.

When a press person asked me the other day what was wrong with this budget, this is what I replied: "When I walked from my Queen's Park office over to my Toronto apartment near the Wellesley Hospital late one night last week, I saw someone going through garbage cans for food. That person is not just a statistic. That person is a human being." He is an individual who requires our attention. Attention must be paid to those people. Attention must be paid to the unemployed of this province. Attention must be paid to the working poor of this province.

That is what a budget should be all about. A budget should be about taking into account individual human beings. Individuals such as that man going through the garbage cannot continue to be sacrificed on the altar of some abstract thing called a buoyant economy.

I want to conclude with the words of Sir Edmond Peacock, "I shall pass through this life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do, let me do it now, let me not postpone it, nor delay it, for I shall not pass this way again."

We were at a crossroads. We had an opportunity to improve and develop the economic and



social wellbeing of our province. The Treasurer and his government missed this opportunity, and we shall not pass this way again. I hope the province gets another chance. I am not sure the Treasurer will.

I want to tell him and I want to tell this House that we in this party, we New Democrats, we democratic socialists in North America, will fight again and again and again in this Legislature and in other legislatures across this country, in the Parliament of this country and on the hustings of the land until we have achieved social and economic justice, until we have achieved dignity for that man searching for food in the garbage pails of Metro Toronto. We shall not rest until we have achieved that goal. We cannot and we must not do otherwise.

**Mr. Ferraro:** It gives me great pleasure to rise today in support of my honoured colleague's excellent blueprint for a better Ontario. Let me initially congratulate the Treasurer and his staff for the hard work, for the many hours of work, for the patience and the ability to listen to comments and suggestions and for producing this budget which is, in my view, an excellent blueprint.

It is only fair that when people read this budget and read reports on this budget that they should know it is indicative to some degree of the man who sponsored it, the Treasurer. It is fiscally responsible and, in that light, let me say that responsibility was no more evident than on the day the budget was presented and there was a reception in this very House. That reception, I might add, included a cash bar. What could be more indicative of the responsibility that this Treasurer holds for the taxpayers' dollar than that?

Having had, as well, the pleasure of many dinners with the Treasurer, which I enjoyed immensely—

**Mr. Foulds:** Were they ever over \$2?

**Mr. Ferraro:** They were over \$2, unfortunately.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer has been accused of being a tightwad. He has been accused of being a cheapskate. He has been accused of being a penny-pinching farmer. The Treasurer of this province is frugal; he is not cheap. His frugality is evident. I might add, having watched the Treasurer eat, that I would much rather buy him a suit than take him out for supper.

Before I get into the specifics of the budget, I would like to make a personal comment that I think is shared by many people in this province

and has been shared by many members of this House. What the opposition is going to say is automatic, irrespective of which party or which person is the presenter or what is being presented. It is automatic that it is going to be negative.

**4:50 p.m.**

For the next 42 years at least, God willing, that Mr. Nixon prepares these budgets, I can almost tell members now what the opposition is going to say. They are going to be negative. They will say, "It is wrong; it is bad."

I do not know what could be bad about a budget that increases taxes only on cigarettes. Some might say they should have been increased more; some might say less. The only increase to the average taxpayer is four cents for a package of cigarettes. Yet the opposition will stand up at every opportunity and say it is a rotten budget. The Treasurer and members of the Liberal Party in Ontario, myself included, do not believe everything the Tories did in the last 42 years was bad. Far from it; not everything.

It is only fair to say, quite openly, in some respects I admire many of the things the New Democratic Party has done in the past and is continuing to do. We do not think everything they do is negative. They stand up at every possible moment given to them and espouse social democracy. Their philosophy is ably announced and pronounced throughout this province, as it was by the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) this afternoon. It is a philosophy I do not believe in, but surely to goodness, everything they do is not bad, and I agree with that.

One thing in particular that bothers me about the NDP is that its members will be the first to stand up and condemn when business, manufacturers or corporations close down or lay off. There are unfortunate incidents, and we share in the concern and plight of the people who are laid off, but that is a reality. We do not believe, as they do, government can solve everything, although we try.

The nice thing about this country and this province is that we have a democracy. There is a choice, just as we have the choice of voting for New Democrats, Tories or Liberals. Profit is not a dirty word. In the pursuit of that profit, many of the social programs the New Democrats condemn or want paid for come from that free enterprise and the entrepreneurial spirit in this province.

The aspect of the budget I find particularly enjoyable is its approach to business, its entre-



preneurial aspect, its free enterprise aspect. I totally agree with the Highlights booklet to the budget which states: "The 1986 Ontario budget combines social concern with common sense and a businesslike approach to the management of government."

I was happy to hear the member for Port Arthur mention that the position of the Premier, the Treasurer and the Liberal Party in Ontario vis-à-vis the free trade issue is unclear. I am surprised he had the gall to stand up and say that. Tories, such as the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), have stood up on numerous occasions and openly condemned the Premier for not taking a position on the free trade issue.

The member for Port Arthur referred to the report from the select committee on economic affairs, which was chaired so ably by my colleague the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke). I had the pleasure of being on that committee. There were four Liberals, four Tories and two New Democrats. We met all summer, we had dozens of submissions and we went to Washington and met with officials there. We met with every possible organization we could think of.

The report contributed to by all three parties, but supported unanimously by the Conservatives and by the Liberals—the New Democratic Party had a dissenting opinion and made a dissenting report—states the position quite clearly. It has been stated quite clearly by our Premier on numerous occasions and by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) when asked the question.

I quote from page 5: "As a result of its hearings, the committee believes that a comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement with the United States is neither achievable nor realistic." That is very clear. "This belief is based upon what comprehensive free trade means. The committee's understanding is that a comprehensive free trade agreement would mean the complete removal of all tariff and nontariff barriers to trade from all sectors of the economy. Further, it would mean that both countries would have to ensure that no nontariff barriers be put in place in the future."

I do not understand the confusion. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition should consult with the member for Eglinton (Mr. McFadden) in order to find out what position his party has taken.

Let me refer specifically to the unanimously supported recommendations in this report. There are 20 but I will not go through them all.

"7. The government of Ontario should be involved in any trade discussions where matters of provincial jurisdiction or interest are under consideration." The Premier has indicated that on numerous occasions. Indeed, the committee has reinforced that in the report.

"10. It is imperative that the Canadian government guarantee we do not compromise our social, cultural, regional and linguistic heritage in any trade discussions with the United States. This heritage includes, but is not limited to, government programs such as the medicare system, pension and social security programs, the system of workers' compensation boards, national unemployment insurance, regional development programs and protection for Canadian content in the nation's media." That is quite clear.

"11. Any discussions and possible agreements should specifically protect Canada's continuing right to unique social, cultural and economic policies and programs based on its own distinct needs.

"16. A trade agreement such as the auto pact, which embodies safeguards and requires companies to provide Canadian value added, is a model agreement that should be pursued." This has been reinforced many times by the Premier and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

"17. The agricultural sector should not be on the agenda for any trade discussions."

I suggest the confusion is possibly in the minds of the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the Tory party in Ottawa, Mr. Mulroney. I suggest the confusion is probably enhanced significantly in Mr. Mulroney's case by recent events surrounding his somewhat suspect government.

**Mr. Gillies:** Has the member talked to Hugh O'Neil lately? He is a big one—

**Mr. Ferraro:** The member for Brantford asks whether we have talked to the member for Quinte, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Yes, we have. His statements are quite clear. It is obvious the member for Brantford is not even talking to his own members on the committee. Maybe I should go through the recommendations of the report once again. They are quite clear. The government's position is clear and his party has supported it unanimously. I suggest if there is any confusion, it is on his part.

We came up with those recommendations because we are concerned about the economy in Ontario, which we know is very prosperous right now, having the lowest unemployment rate, 6.8



per cent and dropping. We have created 180,000 new jobs. On many occasions the Treasurer and the Premier have stood up and said: "We cannot take credit for all that. We are fortunate to be in the province we are in, but the reality is that we are the government of the day."

**5 p.m.**

Our position to enhance that vitality in the province is enhanced and protected, not only in our position vis-à-vis free trade but also in our fiscally responsible, business-like budgets, as indicated by the one presented a few days ago by my honourable colleague the Treasurer. We cannot take a position with the US that we do not want to talk to them. Ninety per cent of the exports of this province go to the US; 78 per cent of total Canadian exports go to the US. Hundreds of thousands of jobs are at risk. We cannot take the position that we do not want to talk to them. We believe we could enhance that position while at the same time expanding and exploring opportunities in other countries and in other sectors of the world, specifically, the Pacific Rim. Initiatives have been taken by the Premier and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology in that regard. We have to talk to the US.

We are concerned about what Mr. Mulroney and his gang of men are putting on the table. There is a possibility to enhance our position and our trading prospects with our good friend and neighbour.

It should be refreshing to this House to hear somebody say what the people of Ontario are saying. They are saying quite clearly this is a good budget, by and large. We fully realize that as politicians we cannot please everybody, but when the Toronto Sun comes out with a headline on the front page that says, "Cheers, Bob," that in itself is indicative of how the people of this province will receive and have received this budget.

The people in my riding of Wellington South, which is composed primarily of the townships of Puslinch and Guelph and the city of Guelph, are telling me this is a good budget. They are telling me they are surprised a government that has been in power for roughly 10 months has been able to grasp the reins of responsibility to the degree we have. I suggest that is in large part the result of the leadership of this government provided by the Premier and by the Treasurer.

Guelph is, if I may parochially indicate, an average town. It is a university town. It is above average in its beauty.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** And in its hospital services.

**Mr. Ferraro:** I will talk about the hospital situation in due course.

It is indicative of what makes this province so viable. Its people are honest and hardworking. They do not hesitate to indicate their concerns, their feelings of shortcomings and their aspirations.

What the people in Guelph are saying is indicative of what the vast majority of the nine million people in Ontario are saying. They are saying: "Bob Nixon, the Liberal Party and David Peterson, you did a hell of a good job. Keep up the good work."

**Mr. Speaker:** I believe you are referring to the Treasurer and the Premier.

**Mr. Ferraro:** It must trouble those people who spent 40 years letting things such as hospitals, roads and schools crumble to see our upstart government start to rebuild from their rubble. It really must bother them.

I find it extraordinary that many former ministers, who helped destroy quality in our schools, our hospitals and our municipalities, stir themselves to such fits of outrage as they indicate their dismay in the press and in the House. How can they object to the fact that this government is trying to rectify the things that have been neglected for so many years and do so in a manner that is fiscally responsible? I do not understand that.

There is no reason to be as negative as those dissatisfied and frustrated gloom merchants. This budget is so positive, well planned and appropriate for the times that I am sure it will do us all good to look at those aspects.

Earlier, the Treasurer mentioned the health care system. I want to address that issue right now. Let us take the \$850 million for new hospital capital projects. In essence, we are talking about more than 4,000 new acute care beds. In my riding alone, there is a drastic need for an infusion of capital to rebuild the Guelph General Hospital and a new St. Joseph's Hospital.

My riding has been dealing with hospital and health care issues for the past 20 years. A succession of Health ministers, including one who seems to be settling in for a long career as Leader of the Opposition, made promises to fund redevelopment. Let me quote actual fact and statements from previous Health ministers and from the present Leader of the Opposition.

This neglect of the health care system in my riding and Guelph for 20 years is indicative of the neglect in so many other communities, in so



many other cities, in this province. Let me quote a couple of statements.

This historical information goes back as early as 1966. On May 4, 1972, there was correspondence from S. W. Martin authorizing a "capital project to start as soon as possible" and indicating that "capital funds are being protected to permit commencement of construction during the fiscal year 1973-74." What happened? They did not come up with the money. I will skip a whole bunch.

On May 27, 1974, Harry Worton, a man whose place in this House I had the pleasure of taking, invited the then Minister of Health to visit the hospital. The visit did not materialize.

On July 2, 1975, the then Minister of Health was generally in agreement with the master development study. Funding was unavailable in 1975-76.

On July 15, 1975, a letter to Mr. Worton, MPP, advised that "the master development study has been with the Ministry of Health since May 1974 awaiting approval in principle."

In November 1975, Mr. Worton reported that "no funds are available until at least 1978 and master plans need updating."

In an April 26, 1977, in a telephone discussion, Shirley Brett of the Ministry of Health said unofficially that \$22 million was finally in the budget to build the new building, planned for 1977-78 to be built in 1979-80 or 1982. The need for immediate action for the planning and hiring of health care consultants was emphasized. It goes on.

My favourite quote is the one by the then Health Minister, the venerable and present Leader of the Opposition, the man who condemns this government for not taking action. He said, "Redevelopment has been talked about and studied for years, and in fairness to the people who have worked so hard and also in fairness to the redevelopment committee, the Health minister must be sure to give the project high priority for funding." What happened? After 20 years, it was another empty promise. If this was a high priority in his mind, what ever happened to those which were low priorities?

If we could put hospital beds in hot air, we could have housed the whole province in our promised buildings in Guelph. I am sure Guelph's experience was repeated in cities, towns and regions all over the province.

I am proud that this budget backs up our promise to those places with bucks, not bunk. My city and my constituency are happy to place their faith in this government and in the hands of

this Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), this Treasurer and this Premier. Time will tell.

If members want to know who likes this budget, let them ask the people running the hospitals, municipalities, universities and school boards. Ask them how they feel about the way they are being treated. Before I came here, I was an alderman in Guelph. I can say quite openly that the previous government had no idea how frustrating it was for people to wait for its word and its handout, for its compassion in doling out their own money, the taxpayers' money, to them. It was the divine right of kings of the former Tory government that it doled out whatever it felt was necessary. By and large, if one was not Tory, one did not get anything.

**5:10 p.m.**

At times on city council or on hospital and school boards, we got no word until we were well into the budget process. Now we get fair warning. On November 1, they will have advance notice so they can budget properly. Everyone can plan ahead, which in itself is fiscally responsible and a tremendous assistance to these boards and commissions that have to plan. They are out of the dark; there is no innuendo; there is no having to kiss the feet of the Treasurer of the day of the Tory party to find out where they are going. There are no long-distance phone calls that will give a special favour here or there.

Let me get to some of the parts of this budget I am especially proud of. I alluded to them earlier. This budget is business oriented, which I am particularly pleased about. I have been given the honour of being named the small business advocate for Ontario and chairman of the committee of parliamentary assistants for small business.

The committee is composed of the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli), who is parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye); the member for Downsview (Mr. Cordiano), who is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Sorbara); the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), who is the parliamentary assistant to the Premier; the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer), who is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations; and last but by no means least, the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp), who is the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer and Minister of Revenue.



In the short time I have been in the position of chairman and this committee has met, I have found the business community and the business leaders, by and large, grateful and optimistic about the possibilities that free enterprise and entrepreneurship will play in the future of this province. They realize the Premier is not only a politician, but also a businessman. There is nothing wrong with making a buck, or wanting to devote time and energy to making a profit, and in the process, hiring people and paying taxes to support our social programs.

The New Democrats would say the government should get more involved. Quite frankly, on a personal basis, I say the less government involvement the better.

**Mr. Gillies:** So much for the accord.

**Mr. Ferraro:** I do not know whether the member for Brantford is in agreement with that statement.

**Mr. Gillies:** We did not sign a deal with the devil. The Liberals did.

**Mr. Ferraro:** That is very true. The member for Brantford said they did not get to sign an accord with the members of the New Democratic Party. I suggest the reason they did not is that they were not giving enough credit to the members of the NDP as far as their intelligence is concerned. The proposition the Tories were presenting obviously was not palatable, if indeed it was much more beneficial.

I gave credit to the intellectual capabilities of the NDP members when they chose to support the Liberals, a choice that is being approved of by the people of this province. Dare I say to the member for Brantford that approval was obvious in relation to the recent election in York East. Even the member for Brantford has to agree with that. We are prepared to let the people judge our actions, and they have spoken.

I want to devote some time to small business, which is my particular area of concern and a little niche I have been able to get involved in, courtesy of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and the Premier. Along with the members of the committee, I will endeavour to deal in as forthright a manner as we possibly can in fostering the business aspect and the entrepreneurial spirit in this province. As has been said before, small business is big business. A lot of people do not know how big small business is. Let me point out some facts.

At the same time, it would be wrong if I did not commend and applaud the actions of the former Premier of this province, the member for Muskoka. I stand here without hesitation and say

that, in my view, he was the first man who really gave small business any attention—the attention that it needs. Having said that, I hope this government, I and the members of my committee, will be able to promote the views of small businesses to a greater degree than that member. It is really a sad fact that the member for Muskoka will be more noticeably remembered for the events of May 2, 1985, or the fact he wore a plaid jacket than for his accomplishments in promoting the ideals of small business. At this time, I wish to give him credit for that.

Ontario defines a small business as a company that employs fewer than 100 people. In that regard, there are 308,000 small businesses in Ontario. These are the latest statistics I have, which I believe are from 1985. These businesses employ more than 1.8 million people. These 1.8 million people affect the lives of more than 4.5 million people in this province. Need I say that is roughly half of the total population of this province of 9 million. Small business is 50 per cent of Ontario's private sector work force.

One of the problems of small business is that it is not as glamorous or exciting to talk about small business as it is, for example, to talk about a large corporation that is entering into a multimillion-dollar program in a certain area. There is nothing too exciting about saying, as my father did and many other small business people in Guelph and in this province and country did, "I will start a small tailoring shop or a dry cleaning shop or a restaurant or a barbershop or a fast food store or a retail store or a clothing store." It is not very glamorous to talk about those things, but if one starts talking about a \$400-million expansion, it is exciting, it is front-page news.

The reality is that dry cleaner, that tailor, that waiter, that cook, that truck driver, that secretary, that individual has made this province what it is. That individual has created the jobs that have brought us through one of the worst recessions in our history. Let me substantiate that fact. Between 1978 and 1982, small businesses created 89 per cent of the net new jobs in Canada. In that period, 55 per cent of the new job opportunities were generated by small business startups. In fiscal 1985 to 1986, more than 99,000 new firms were started in Ontario. Of these, roughly 34,000 will actually create employment. The rest, by and large, are holding companies for investments and/or real estate or will not employ people. Roughly 34,000 of the 99,000 will employ people. They generated more than 180,000 new job opportunities during



that same period of 1985 to 1986 and half a billion dollars in new investment.

**5:20 p.m.**

In the last five years, 90 per cent of the net new jobs have been created by firms with from one to 19 employees. There was an actual net loss of jobs in the larger manufacturing corporations. The little guys have been carrying the freight in this province. The annual payroll for small businesses in Ontario is more than \$27 billion. Of young people with jobs, 65 per cent work for small businesses and more than 25 per cent of new small businesses are owned by women. Might I add as a little tidbit that the success ratio of new small businesses in the last five years has been greater on the side of women than on men.

About 92 per cent of small businesses are in the service sector—clothing stores, restaurants, lawyers—seven per cent are in manufacturing and one per cent are in resources.

I reiterate, while it is not exciting to talk about the little guy who is opening a dry-cleaning store or a variety store or the lady who is opening a dress shop, the reality is they are the ones who brought us through the recession and they are the backbone of this province. The member for Muskoka was the first to acknowledge that fact and I give him all the credit in the world for it.

What are the specific programs in this budget that will enhance this business attitude, this business aspect, and the success or failure of small businesses? Let me start with one that is a good example of this government's willingness to listen to business experts and respond in a positive way. I reiterate that one of the first things the committee of parliamentary assistants on small business did was make a presentation to the Treasurer and his staff on the new ventures program. With their co-operation, it is in the budget and it will be greatly received in this province when it is announced in the next few weeks.

Small businesses getting started in Ontario face failure if they have poor business plans. The number one reason for the failure of a new business startup is that it was poorly managed or poorly prepared. The second reason is that there was not enough money there, not enough cash flow. Most businesses will fail in the first five years.

I am a former banker, now a politician. There is an old story going around. Do members know what a banker is? A banker is someone who will give one an umbrella and ask for it back when it starts to rain. I am not sure I am enamoured with the definition of a politician in that regard either.

Do members know what a politician is? A politician is someone who will give one an umbrella and then ask one to pay for it. Nevertheless, I will be the first to admit that banks, by and large, will give a person \$2 if he has \$10.

The problem is significantly compounded for a woman or a young person. The mentality in the financial institutions is such that they are prepared to help success. Success promotes more success. However, if one wants to start something, there is a hesitancy and a resistance by the banks. Part and parcel of that resistance is the fact that most small businessmen starting out do not know how, are not prepared or do not have the capability of preparing themselves to talk to a bank.

My father went into the dry-cleaning and tailoring business. If I asked him, "Dad, did you have a business plan?" he would probably say: "Yes, I did. I go in at seven, I come home at seven and I have 15 minutes for lunch." That is the way it was in many sectors of the economy throughout this province. Today we are fortunate to have advanced to a level of education, prosperity and sophistication where the small businessman or businesswoman has an advantage.

I got off track a bit when I started talking about how difficult it once was for a woman who went into a bank. I think I can say that she would probably say to the banker, "This is my plan, this is how much money I have and this is what I need from you." I suspect that in the majority of cases the banker would say to the lady: "That is fine, madam. We thank you for coming in. We would love to deal with you and we will give you this much money, but would you take these forms home and get your husband, or your rich uncle or your boyfriend, to sign them?" It does not seem fair, but that was and to some degree is the reality.

The new ventures program is a response to all those problems. The six members of the committee for small business gave the new ventures program a very long and productive scrutiny, as did the Treasurer. We are so excited by the possibilities of this program and what it will do that it is difficult to compose ourselves. It is innovative. It is something that is not specifically attuned to the manufacturer in this province.

Most politicians in this House and most businessmen will agree that if one wanted assistance from the government—and I am not talking about handouts, I am talking about assistance—if one was in manufacturing, there



were lots of programs. However, I am sure every member in this House has experienced trying to help the guy or lady who came into his constituency office and said: "I have a plan. I want to start a bakery." It was a small business. One tried to get him some help, to find him an accountant or, as in recent years, have him talk to somebody in the small business sector, but by and large, there was nothing. However, if one was manufacturing widgets or pens, there was a lot.

The new ventures program is innovative in that it does not preclude the nonmanufacturing sector. It is exciting in that it is going to be administered by the banks. It is exciting and long overdue in that it is going to give special attention to the people in the north; there are special concessions there. It is going to reinforce the individual woman's possibilities of getting assistance in this province. There will be no bias shown. The initial response from the lending institutions is overwhelming. We are optimistic and we on this side of the House are determined to make this program work. I hope all members of all parties in this House will support and promote it.

What else is in this budget? There is more good news for business. Specifically, there are other programs. Innovation Ontario, a responsibility of the Ontario Development Corp., will provide pre-venture capital assistance to small businesses in the high-technology field—again the onus is on small business—as well as assistance for licensing and joint ventures and for firms developing technology-intensive products purchased by all levels of government. To carry out its expected mandate, the ODC budget will be increased by \$10 million this year.

Is that all? No. There is more for business. There are changes for the small business development corporations that the Treasurer announced a couple of days ago. The program will be broadened so that companies offering certain support services to business will become eligible for small business development corporation incentives. Support services that will be added to the SBDC program include electroplaters, foundries and milling operators and computer and architectural and engineering services. In his October 1985 budget, the Treasurer added computer software development as an eligible SBDC activity.

**5:30 p.m.**

Some people may ask, "Is that all there is?" No, it is not. We know people will make that little bit of extra effort and take pride in their

work when they have a direct interest in the company's wellbeing. For that reason, we have copied the Quebec plan to some degree, with adjustments. The employee share ownership plan was introduced.

The Treasurer outlined proposals to encourage the use of this plan which, in essence, enables employees of small- and medium-sized businesses to receive a 15 per cent tax credit on up to \$2,000 of annual purchases of newly issued shares of their employer's corporation. Such plans, he said, could "foster a stronger partnership between employers and employees by enabling employees to participate directly in the benefits of business growth."

The Treasurer also proposed to reimburse the firms involved with one third of the cost of setting up these plans to a maximum of \$10,000, a plan that has come of age in this province and a plan that I believe will enhance the viability not only from the standpoint of longevity on the job, but also the viability from the standpoint of economic remuneration in acquiring more money for the employee and for the employer.

The confrontational aspect of labour, management and government is slowly being addressed by this government. They cannot always fight one another. Surely they can sit down and discuss matters of mutual benefit and concern, although not in all cases, the doctors being one.

Our commitment to small business will not end there. We have begun to meet with business leaders to hear what else we can do to help them in the areas of regulatory reform and with their concerns with regard to some of the legislation being promoted by this government. We hear tales of neglect along the way, with gasps of surprise that we are for real and that we do care how they feel.

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending, on behalf of the ministry, a function in Ottawa for a retiring chairman of the board of one of the government facilities, who is an avowed and self-proclaimed Tory and proud of it; and there is no reason why he should not be. It was a pleasure for me to be there and to congratulate him on his years of contribution to this province. The surprising thing to some perhaps was that he actually had nice things to say about this government and our Premier. In this regard, this individual was involved in technology and computers and he had nothing but praise for the Premier and the idea of his technology fund. Aside from what the Leader of the Opposition may say in the press, not all people think that what this government is doing is all bad.



There is a lot more in this budget that is worthy of praise and recognition: the technology fund, \$100 million; \$15 million for university research; the excellence fund for university faculty renewal, as indicated by the minister today in the House, providing 500 new faculty jobs; the timing of the payments which, as I indicated, is improved, and the community economic transformation agreements, a Tory program that is being applauded by this Treasurer and this government. It is a good program and we are enhancing it.

There is a 39 per cent increase in allocation of funds for the agricultural sector in this province—

**Miss Stephenson:** It is 30 per cent.

**Mr. Ferraro:** I am told it is 39 per cent, irrespective of what the member for York Mills may say.

It is his duty, and I admire the courage of the Tory critic for Agriculture and Food to stand up and try as he may, to say that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) is not concerned about the plight of the farmer in this province, that he is not doing enough, and that this government is not sensitive to the needs of the farmer. The fact is there is a 39 per cent increase over the previous Tory allocation for the farmers in this province.

There is help for child care, seniors and the disabled, the start of a dental program and housing help for low-income families.

There is a broader use of lottery funds for hospitals and cancer treatment facilities. I am sure every member of this House has had people ask why the government is putting money into sending kids to Russia to play hockey, not that that is bad. The overwhelming response to this aspect of the budget is positive. People will indeed smile a little more brightly; aside from the fact that they may win \$100,000 or \$1 million, they will feel good, even if they lose, knowing that money is going to be allocated to health care facilities.

The most amazing thing is that this budget has no tax increases, save and except four cents for a package of cigarettes. That is amazing in this day and age. It is too bad the federal government could not accomplish the same type of thing. The response we are getting is overwhelming. I can only thank those people for their responses, and we will look forward to tomorrow.

We have even promised to change the budget procedure to give more people a chance to make their views known. We do not think we have all the answers, but we are doing our best. We are going to make mistakes; we admit that.

When I was campaigning for election I said to the people: "You are not going to agree with me all the time. I do not have all the answers. The only thing I can guarantee is that we will do our best, and you will get your money's worth." I suggest that this government, this Premier and this Treasurer are certainly giving the people of Ontario their money's worth.

I find it hard to believe that a budget that does so much for so many and leaves room for confidence, prosperity, profit—much to the chagrin of my friends in the New Democratic Party—and growth should be the subject of such scorn. I know the opposition feels it must be critical because that is its job, but I am sure what really gets opposition members angry is that they cannot take credit for the budget.

This is a good-news budget for Ontario and its people. I commend the members of the opposition, who can do such a wonderful acting job, keep a straight face and, yes, even work up shows of outrage when they know the Treasurer, the Premier and the Liberal Party in Ontario are doing a good job of looking after their interests.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Are there any comments or questions?

**Mr. Barlow:** I will reserve my comments for a few minutes.

**Mr. Breaugh:** I have a couple of quick comments. I was intrigued by the member's fascination with the business sector. It predominated in most of what he had to say about the budget. It was interesting that he did not have much to say about anything else.

I would like to hear the member comment on whether he feels the Treasurer was successful in putting forward what has always been seen as a balanced approach; that is to say, big businesses and small businesses need some attention from the government, but there are a lot of people who are not in the business field who also need some attention.

I am afraid that by not addressing those concerns the member may leave the, I hope, mistaken impression that the government is interested only in the business side of the equation and does not care about the trade union movement as a whole, about women as a whole, about people who are on social assistance programs, about people who are unemployed, about university students, about the very young and about the very old—in other words, everybody else in society. At the end of our little question-and-answer session, I would like to give the member an opportunity to correct the record, so to speak.



5:40 p.m.

**Ms. Bryden:** Did the member for Wellington South (Mr. Ferraro) hear the question posed yesterday by the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes)? She asked whether the budget included sufficient money to ensure that equal pay for work of equal value would be introduced into the whole of the public sector and not just the very narrow part covered by the present bill. We would also like it to be extended to the private sector.

The member may not be aware that right now the Equal Pay Coalition is celebrating its 10th anniversary out front, with a display of supporters and balloons. They are hoping it will not take 10 more years for this House to achieve equal pay for work of equal value. I want to present the member with a balloon from the coalition.

**Mr. Breagh:** Do you want a balloon, Mr. Speaker?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The question of whether this is in order is really dicey. Since we have had ties and cornflakes, I suppose balloons are not too extreme. Are there any other comments or questions? Is there any reply from the member for Wellington South?

**Mr. Ferraro:** Yes. In the two minutes allocated to me, I would like to reply.

First, I want to thank the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) for her generous gift, which brings the question to mind: Were there no red balloons out there? Second, contrary to what a lot of people may think, I am positive the hot air in that balloon was supplied from artificial sources and not by any politicians in this House. I thank the member for that gesture.

In response to the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh), he is absolutely correct. I was preoccupied with the business aspect of the budget. If his impression of my presentation was that it was business oriented, he is absolutely correct. It was, although I did allude to some other programs, possibly not to the same degree the member would have liked. On reflection, I suggest that many of the programs the Treasurer has in his budget deal with other issues involved, such as the labour movement, social issues, health care issues, low-cost housing and, indeed, the social requirement. It is a balanced budget, but I make no apology because my presentation was business oriented.

To the member for Beaches-Woodbine—and I will have to get her a suitable gift in return—I heard her response in support of the equal pay legislation my government has brought in. As the small business advocate—and as I am sure the

member and every member of this House is aware—we have concerns in the business community about the equal pay legislation proposals. I fully intend to make my government aware of those concerns and I hope appropriate legislation will be put into place to satisfy the worthy organization that was so kind as to produce these balloons.

**Mr. Breagh:** Actually, it looks as if the member for Wellington South has been joined by an identical twin.

**Mr. Ferraro:** The member for Oshawa is absolutely right.

**The Deputy Speaker:** As the member for Cambridge starts his speech, perhaps the member for Wellington South might remove the offending balloon to the lobby, please.

**Mr. Barlow:** The balloon does not offend me as the next speaker. As the member for Wellington South said, perhaps the balloon is not the right colour. It should be blue. I want to correct the member who suggested a different colour, one we see too much of around the chambers in this day and age.

I will start off my address to the budget by saying, in my opinion—and I think most members of my party and of the business community agree—this was a very disappointing budget. It was disappointing to the extent that, with the buoyant economy we have at present, the remarkable recovery that Ontario has made from the difficulties of the past two, three or four years, we have an opportunity to address a major concern in the province, and that is the deficit.

Mostly because of the good management of the previous government, Ontario was the beneficiary of about \$2.6 billion in windfall financing that the government had to develop a strong budget, not only to look at the deficit and do something meaningful about it, not a paltry \$85 million—

**Mr. Breagh:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: It is possible this may turn into an interesting speech, but I am not sure there is a quorum present. Can you assist me?

**Mr. Speaker:** You are correct. There is not a quorum present.

Mr. Speaker ordered the bells rung.

5:47 p.m.

**Mr. Barlow:** I thank the people who recently joined the audience to hear this speech. I hope the government members in particular will take heed of what I have to suggest in the next three quarters of an hour or so.



I was referring to the fact that the deficit was not addressed in a meaningful way by the Treasurer. He had an opportunity to take advantage of the good management of the previous government that brought us through very difficult times and up to the time when even the Liberals can bring in a good budget.

We cannot take credit for all the advantages and the windfall the government received. There are other contributing, external factors. Falling interest rates, lower oil prices across this great country and an improved American economy were additional factors that had a lot to do with it.

This budget has a spending rate of somewhat twice the inflation rate we are now enjoying. It brings to light the fear I have been expressing that the Liberal government would use this unprecedented windfall to buy public favour with trendy programs designed for political pork-barrelling. If I might borrow a quote from one of yesterday morning's newspapers, "Treasurer Bob Nixon gave the consumer a peck on the cheek and a mortgaged future."

**5:50 p.m.**

He had an opportunity to do otherwise. In the economic outlook in the budget document, he has projected that Ontario will have a growth rate of about 4.2 per cent over the next year. All other economists are projecting somewhat higher than that; they are somewhat more optimistic than the sceptical Treasurer we have. They estimate as high as 4.9 per cent in economic growth. The difference between the 4.2 per cent, the low-balling of the Treasurer, and the 4.9 per cent of those of the more optimistic economists of the province, as I understand it, could represent anywhere up to an additional \$900 million, if the upper limits are more realistic.

**Mr. D. R. Cooke:** Who are the highballers?

**Mr. Barlow:** The highballers included the Conference Board of Canada. This is an organization that always received considerable criticism from the Liberal Party when it was sitting on this side of the House, saying the board was never accurate and that it was always low in its estimates. Now the Treasurer is ignoring the board's suggestion.

Another projection I should point out is that of unemployment. Of course, any unemployment is clearly unacceptable, and there is no argument on that. However, the Treasurer has suggested a projected unemployment rate of 6.9 per cent. Unless I am mistaken, I believe the current unemployment rate is 6.8 per cent. It would appear the Treasurer is projecting an increase in

unemployment. I hope he is wrong in that projection as well.

As our party's representative and critic for small business, I waited with bated breath to see exactly what the throne speech offered and, after that disappointment, to see what the budget would bring forth for Ontario's businessmen; something that would allow businessmen to better compete instead of being fearful of what the government would do next in an anti-business way.

We had a bit of an enjoyable history lesson, certainly factual, from the member for Wellington South in explaining and giving us all the facts and figures about small business. I do not question any of them. I think that is exactly what is taking place. He has those figures at his disposal; I would not dispute them.

Small businesses have been asking for an extension of the tax holiday from the current three years. I would have thought the Treasurer might have addressed that. They have been asking for a growth incentive plan aimed at reducing the aggregate burden of payroll levies, which impedes the growth of small business. Business wants tax incentives rather than some piddling programs that seem to conflict and confuse the businessman and businesswoman of this province.

Most business owners, certainly small business owners, have neither staff nor resources to look into all the bureaucracy-creating programs that the government seems to dream up. I do not for a moment suggest our government was lily white on that, but I do not see where this present government is changing that in any way, shape or form.

When a member of my staff recently called up the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology to find out the fundamental differences in a few of their programs, the counsellor was unable to differentiate between the various programs.

Small business has had almost a year of being ignored and antagonized by the Liberal government. In their desire to please their NDP friends, they have proposed and introduced a lot of legislation that affects small business in a somewhat negative way. An example of that is the Retail Sales Tax Act as it affects the fast food industry. After the October budget, we had a breath of fresh air. We had a quarter of an election promise. The election promise was to eliminate tax on restaurant meals under \$4. At that time, the limit was brought down to under \$1. That caused great confusion to the restaurant business, to McDonald's, the A & Ws and the



small ma-and-pa stores of this province. Those who had computerized cash registers were able to get them converted. It took time because everybody wanted it done at the same time. Staff were eventually trained.

Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me to digress for a moment, a number of the members during McHappy Days recently had the privilege of operating the cash registers. I was doing fine pushing everything until somebody came in and ordered only a coke, and I had to put tax on that. I am glad it was not I who had to be trained because I do not profess to be able to run those machines with any amount of accuracy. I had to call on one of the young people behind the counter who was more familiar with those machines than I was and ask what to do.

All those people had been trained and had been doing it for several months. Now they have to be trained all over again to go through the same thing so that this government can claim it has been able to achieve half an election promise as opposed to a quarter.

Another thing that business in general, certainly small business, has been very concerned about is the insurance crisis we are facing in this province. Because of the insurance problems they are having, many businesses fear collapse. Some actually have collapsed or folded up because they have been unable to afford the insurance. I will talk more about that in a little while.

They were also concerned about how first-contract legislation would give the upper hand to the big unions of the province. They felt they might not be able to operate their businesses and negotiate meaningfully with their employees. The proposed strengthening or introduction of wrongful dismissal legislation also puts fear into businessmen. It makes them concerned about whether they should hire additional people. If business people have problems with employees, they do not want to dismiss them wrongfully. They have to know they are doing it for good and proper reasons.

Another concern is the limit on overtime pay, which could throw the small business community into chaos. Many small businesses operate with the co-operation of their employees to put in the few extra hours that are required. I am not suggesting for a moment that overtime is not abused by employers in some of the larger corporations, but it affects the small businessman in a very different way than it affects the big employer. That is something the small business community is concerned about.

Pay equity is another piece of legislation coming on stream that has many people concerned. The concern is not related to whether two people performing the same sort of job would be differentiated between. The concern is whether a bureaucrat or a committee is going to suggest that A is worth as much as B and not let the market forces take that into consideration.

What the business community feels, and I echo this, is that it is a matter of education at the elementary school level, so that every girl who graduates from high school and/or university is not going to go into the same channel, the ghetto that has been referred to in the past. Girls should be encouraged to go into some of the skills that are crying out for trained people.

**6 p.m.**

When the Honourable Flora MacDonald was in Cambridge recently, she visited Babcock and Wilcox and suggested bringing unskilled, untrained welder-fitters into that corporation for training. I forget exactly what the ratio was, but about one out of every three coming in for retraining was to be a woman. When they finish their course, they will be extremely well paid individuals and receive the same pay as their male counterparts.

When we go into the budget, there are a few things about which concern arises. There is the new ventures program to which the member for Wellington South referred. On the surface, it sounds to me like a good program. There is a concern that the little person starting a tailoring shop, a dressmaking shop or a bakery may not have the initial \$15,000 that is required. The banking community perhaps is not prepared to loan the person that money. These are things that I hope will be addressed. It is for newly established businesses, and we realize that. The member for Wellington South offered to give us all the details he possibly could on this program. I am sure many of them are still to be worked out, but I am pleased that it is going to serve not only the manufacturing industry but also the service industry. I caution the member, there is concern that everything is not rosy. People want to know what the details are.

Another program that requires clarification of details is the employee share ownership plan. On the surface, it sounds as if it could be a good program, providing there is a sufficient number of employees to make it worth while for a company to get involved in this program.

In talking to some of the business associations, I have learned their concern is that the cost of getting into a program such as this would far



outweigh the advantages of being in it, as far as the employer is concerned. It would not be practical for anybody with fewer than about 15 employees. If there are more than 15 employees, it may become practical. The restriction of \$2,000 per employee may or may not be a problem.

My friend the member for Kitchener is sitting right in front of me. I welcome him to this side. It is good to see him here. Last evening my friend and I took part in a television panel discussion on the budget. He was suggesting to the people of the Kitchener-Cambridge area who were watching that interesting and exciting show that this was a great program. It could be a great program. We do not know. We have to see a few things.

Did the member get a lot of phone calls on that? He did. Great.

We had a good program there. My friend said last night, "I have not heard from anybody who disagreed with the thrust of the budget," but I was quick to remind him that the member for York Mills gave quite a speech yesterday. He was in the House and he heard most of it. I think it would be fair to say she did not totally agree with the budget.

**An hon. member:** I did not take her seriously, though.

**Mr. Barlow:** The member had better take me seriously.

That is another program which, on the surface, sounds like a good program. I am looking forward to seeing the details, but I hope it will be addressed in consultation with those who are apt to be implementing such programs.

I should also mention that I realize it is a \$50-million upper limit that a firm would have as a gross margin to involve itself in the program. In many cases, \$50 million would be more than ample in the small business sector, but there might be some larger businesses that would also like to participate. I suggest the upper limit should be looked at. The \$2,000 per employee should also be looked at. Perhaps as time goes on we might have an opportunity to recommend a different figure.

The introduction of the small business development corporations program by this government a few years ago was an extremely successful and opportune program for business to get together with a joint venture. I am glad to see the program has expanded into the service sector.

Mr. Speaker, you may have read in Hansard that I suggested during the estimates of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology that the program should be expanded into the service

sector. I would like to see it go further than what is currently being proposed. I would like to see it go into areas such as the construction industry and the bakeries, as my friend the member for Wellington South was talking about. I would like to see it go into the trucking industry. Somebody involved in the trucking industry is not able to approach that sort of program.

In the throne speech—I realize we are talking about the budget and I am still on the budget—we had the term "world-class society" mentioned on a number of occasions. Also mentioned were the statements "steer Ontario into the forefront of economic leadership and technological innovation" and "ensuring Ontario's ability to compete in changing internationally competitive markets." These are wonderful visions that we all have, but they are just words—empty words—if there is not some understanding of what it takes to turn these visions into reality. They are just empty words, and the government's initiatives and actions serve to nullify any hope of these visions becoming realities.

This past weekend I had the opportunity to be at a policy conference of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario conducted in Ottawa. I sat in on the economic development session, and one thing that was loud and clear from those people—

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Was Claude there?

**Mr. Barlow:** He was there. We had a good turnout. My friend the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) was there. There were many people from eastern Ontario, where we have traditionally done so well at the polls.

**Mr. Philip:** What about Otto Jelinek?

**Mr. Barlow:** No, this was a provincial conference. I am sure Mr. Jelinek would have been there, had he been invited.

**Mr. Wiseman:** He would have brought a lot of good ideas to it.

**Mr. Barlow:** He would have been able to help with input.

**Mr. Speaker:** There will be time for comments and questions following the member's presentation.

**Mr. Barlow:** There were a good number of small business operators in that economic development session. They expressed their main concerns as follows: "Get government off our backs. Let us operate our businesses; give us less regulation in our businesses and fewer forms to fill out. We want to see fewer giveaways by government." They felt many of the programs at all levels of government are not at all necessary.



**Mr. Philip:** You were part of the delegation of the Ontario Trucking Association that demanded regulation in the trucking industry.

**Mr. Barlow:** I will get to that in a moment.

**Mr. Philip:** They want regulation in their own industries and free enterprise in everybody else's.

**Mr. Barlow:** I am supposed to be ignoring those interjections, and I am trying very hard to ignore them.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) is hard of hearing.

**Mr. Barlow:** On the subject of retail sales tax, I talked about—

**Mr. Philip:** On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I could not understand what you said. Would you mind repeating that?

**Mr. Speaker:** A few moments ago I suggested that any member, other than the member speaking, would have the opportunity to make comments or ask questions following the member's presentation.

**Mr. Barlow:** Before that point of privilege cropped up, I was talking about the Retail Sales Tax Act. I mentioned previously how the fast food industry is affected and concerned every time the Treasurer gets a whim to increase by 25 per cent an election promise that affects that industry.

**6:10 p.m.**

While talking about election promises, I should mention a couple of promises that still have not been included in this budget. I would have thought that with all the money he had at his disposal, the Treasurer might have attempted to attack these promises. One is the elimination of Ontario health insurance plan premiums. I am sure that by this time the people of Ontario who voted for the Liberal Party would have been looking forward to the elimination of OHIP premiums, or at least to the beginning of a reduction in them. That did not happen.

**An hon. member:** They never keep their promises.

**Mr. Barlow:** That is right. The people of Ontario are going to remember these things. There are a few other election promises I am sure the people of Ontario are going to remember.

I saw in this morning's news that the promise of beer and wine in the corner stores might be modified. It might be thrown at the poor, bedraggled municipal politicians. In Kitchener, there can be beer and wine in the corner stores if the Kitchener council accepts it, but in Cam-

bridge there cannot be. This is going to throw the consumer of those products into total confusion and I have been known to have the odd bit of consumption from time to time. It will also have people running back and forth across municipal boundaries so they can benefit from their thirst.

**An hon. member:** They do not want to make a decision.

**Mr. Barlow:** That is right; they find it very difficult to make a decision.

I was at the all-candidates' meeting in York East when that idea first came up. I must give the member for York East (Ms. Hart) credit for suggesting that. I do not think it was particularly well received that evening. I recall when, on the stage, that member—and I want to welcome her to this assembly and congratulate her on her win—right on the spur of the moment when it was getting a little hot and a little heavy, came up with that thought. Now it appears it might be party policy.

In addition to being gravely affected by the same things that affect business owners throughout Ontario, the constituency of Cambridge—and I like to put in a plug for my own constituency—has another problem that has not been properly or adequately addressed in the budget. It is that of skills training.

We read about the extra \$50 million of new money that is being put into the skills development program. However, at a recent meeting with labour leaders of the Cambridge area in my constituency office, there was unanimous concern about the plight of many of the young people in our area, and not only young people but also older workers. I will deal first with the younger person.

These labour leaders spoke of their own children, who had struggled to get a decent education only to find there was no place for them to work. One of the union presidents spoke about his 21-year-old daughter. Another chap spoke about his 19-year-old son. Neither had ever been able to get a job; the work was not there. At the same time, while this is going on, there are employers who are absolutely desperate, to the point of having their businesses threatened, because they cannot get trained, skilled people, particularly in the metal-working trades.

Machinists and tool-and-die makers are in very short supply. In all the high schools in Cambridge that have industrial or training courses, there are only 30 students enrolled in shop programs. At this very moment, there is a shortfall of 265 machinists and tool-and-die



makers in Cambridge alone. There are that many jobs on the list.

It says something for our inadequate apprenticeship training program. It indicates something our system of schools and otherwise is not addressing. Young people, male and female, are not encouraged to get into those trades, which, incidentally, are very well paying in most cases. Probably many of them would be making more than a politician in these buildings.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** That is not difficult.

**Mr. Barlow:** That is right; that is not difficult.

At the same time, the industrial labour leaders were also talking about the concern and the plight of the older worker, many of whom were laid off during the recession because of the shutdown of plants or became redundant because of changing technology and are unable to get work.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Do they make bow ties in Cambridge?

**Mr. Barlow:** No, I have to get mine at the Royal York Hotel. There is a good men's shop there. That question was asked of me during my maiden speech in this House and I had the same answer at that time.

The plight of the older worker has to be addressed. I know there is \$50 million of new money for training or retraining. The other money is there from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, which was managed quite capably by a former government.

These programs are required. Of the money that is in the skills development program, I am sure the \$15 million which has been pledged to Toyota for retraining by the government is going to come out of there. That is good news for Cambridge and it will be helpful not only to Cambridge, but also will affect the whole Waterloo region. Wellington and Brant counties will benefit from the work force coming in to work at the Toyota plant when it starts its operation in two years' time.

With respect to training, there is hardly any point in developing a world-class widget if we do not have widget makers trained to help manage this program.

I would refer to a void in the budget. I notice absolutely no mention was made of the municipal transfer payments, the unconditional grants and conditional grants that are transferred to municipalities. I believe something like a four per cent increase was allocated to the municipalities this year. However, in the area of unconditional grants, I recall over a year ago now when we were all hot and heavy in our election campaign,

I was asked to appear before the Cambridge city council to explain why Cambridge had received only two per cent for the 1985-86 year when the year before it received 2.5 per cent. When it received the 2.5 per cent increase, I was asked to set up a meeting, which I gladly did, with the then Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. We went down to Cambridge, and together with the mayor and the members of council, we laid our cards on the table at that time. I participated in the meeting. The grant went down for two years. We now have a new government and, instead of a 2.5 per cent increase, it is now down to a 1.7 per cent increase in the unconditional grants.

**Miss Stephenson:** Toronto received 9.4 per cent.

**Mr. Barlow:** Toronto received 9.4 per cent? I believe Kitchener received something like 5.6 per cent. I know it is a different ratio and a different relationship. My friend the member for Waterloo North is not here. They got around nine per cent. There is a formula. I understand the formula and I am not going to question the formula. I am questioning the amount. After being so critical in the past of these unconditional grants, the government has gone down this year on that particular item.

**6:20 p.m.**

Let me talk about the trucking industry, something about which I have a little bit of knowledge. The trucking industry and those who operate trucks in this province—not only the trucking industry, but those who operate private trucks, people who deliver food to the supermarkets, clothes to the clothier and all of those commodities we buy—are now going to pay a seven per cent sales tax for the larger trucks. That sales tax was eliminated during the 1983 budget to help that industry bounce back from the recession, something that had been extremely difficult for them to do. They were hit with many increases, licenses, gasoline tax and, more important, an increase at the pumps on gasoline and diesel fuel. That was giving them a little break that made them a little more competitive with the railways. The railways, being federally controlled, get all kinds of subsidies which the trucking industry does not. They get a tax break from the federal level on their capital equipment purchases. This was something to help the trucking industry to compete.

What happened when the budget was brought in the day before yesterday? At the stroke of a pen, as of the end of this year, the tax will be required to be paid, not only by the commercial



truckers, those who are doing it on a for-hire basis, but also by the private carriers, most of whom deliver the food to our stores. If they are going to buy a new truck, they can rush out this year and buy it and not pay the tax on it; that is fine. Next year they will not buy the truck. It is going to affect the whole economy. It is an extremely regressive step.

Obviously, the Treasurer did not want to help the motoring public in any way, shape or form, because many of us in this Legislature have submitted petitions from members of the Canadian Automobile Association asking for a decrease in gasoline prices. They are asking for a very moderate increase, something well out of line with what the price would be had we still been on the ad valorem system.

The Liberal government was anxious to remove the ad valorem tax, in spite of the cry from not only our party but also the government's friends to the left, who wanted that 8.6 per cent gasoline tax increase lowered. We managed to get it lowered to 8.3 per cent. If we were still on the ad valorem system, the motoring public would now be paying much less. Those are things the Treasurer should realize. I am sorry he is not here to hear this eloquent speech. Perhaps I can read it to him over the phone tonight.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I think he has it piped into his office.

**Mr. Barlow:** I am glad to hear that.

The other thing that is hitting the trucking industry more than many other industries is the insurance crisis. There is documented evidence that some truckers have been hit with a 1,400 per cent increase. All of these things together contribute to an unhappy trucking industry.

I touched on the gasoline tax. There are a few other points I wanted to cover but I should get into a summation of what I have been trying to bring together.

The general public always feels a little apprehensive about any budget coming down because it fears there will be massive general tax increases, gasoline prices will go up or there will be higher sales taxes. Those things did not happen this time—we are thankful for that—other than an additional tax on cigarettes.

The public will probably think there is reason for celebration but, in the Treasurer's own words, he maintained, enhanced, continued, combined, reorganized, reshaped and reviewed existing programs when, with the embarrassment of riches the government actually had to work with, the deficit could have been wrestled—

maybe not to the ground but certainly wrestled down. It had every opportunity to do that.

It could have decreased the gasoline tax, as members of the CAA would like. It could have brought forward some more substantive programs to deal with the critical areas of housing, child care and the health care system. While each of these areas was given lipservice in the budget, there was no sense of urgency. Unfortunately, there is a very long lead time in the preliminary planning stages to actually deliver many of these facilities.

**Mr. Speaker:** Responses or comments or questions?

**Mr. Philip:** I have both comments and questions. I am not going to comment on the whole speech, but I want to comment on the trucking industry part of it. The member was a member of the Ontario Trucking Association, the very association that was so annoyed with the deregulation policies his government was trying to bring in that the trucks on the highways had bumper stickers that said, "Snow must go."

That had nothing to do with meteorological forecasts. It had to do with the then Minister of Transportation and Communications, Mr. Snow, who was doing such an abominable job under the Conservative government for purely rigid ideological reasons, the same kinds of reasons that prompted the destruction of a large part of the trucking industry in the United States, to deregulate.

Luckily, we fought back. With the help of the Liberals who had changed their minds about deregulation, that government came around to a sensible point of view. If ever a policy was going to hurt the trucking industry in this country, it is free trade. If we have completely open borders, it will hurt the trucking industry immensely. It is the member's federal Conservative government in Ottawa that wants this completely open border with the deregulationists and with the gypsy operators in the US coming around and ruining the trucking industry in the province.

It was the Conservatives who added the ad valorem tax that took away considerably from the little bit of profit that some of the trucking companies were earning. Where was the member when the Conservatives put on the ad valorem tax that hurt the very industry of which he was a part? If there was ever an anti-trucking government, it was the previous Conservative government. It is not by accident that the Ontario Trucking Association was constantly—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member's time has expired. The member for Kitchener, for up to two minutes.



**Mr. D. R. Cooke:** I would like the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) to answer three very basic questions. First, with regard to Ontario health insurance plan premiums, during the election campaign we heard from the Conservatives that they were in favour of OHIP premiums and wanted them to continue. Now, as of this budget, I hear nothing but "How come you are not doing it more quickly?" Where does the member stand? Is he in favour of OHIP premiums or is he against OHIP premiums? I would like to hear his answer.

Second, with regard to beer and wine in the corner stores, I gather from what the member is saying he does not trust the people of Cambridge to make a decision about whether beer and wine should be sold in their corner stores. Shame on him for that.

Third, the member talks about the predicted growth rate for the province and seems to be suggesting that somehow we have low balled it. I note we predicted the growth rate for the whole of Canada would be 3.5 per cent and for Ontario 4.2 per cent. We are suggesting this is the fastest-growing province in the country at present. Where does the member stand on Canada's growth rate?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I would like a brief opportunity to respond to the member for Cambridge. As representative of a constituency, the member likes to draw attention, as he appropriately should, to problems challenging his constituency, and he has done that.

I find it intriguing that the Progressive Conservative opposition seems to have three positions it wants the government to take. I think they have to choose one of the three, or even two of the three. Their leader has stated—and I heard it echoed in today's speech by the member for Cambridge—they wanted the deficit reduced. In fact, their leader suggested the deficit should be wiped out and this was the time to do that.

Then I heard representations made on the other side for adding expenditures in certain areas. They want to see the government spend more money in a number of areas, particularly to create jobs, and I think everyone in the province is concerned that we get as close as possible to full

employment. On the one hand, they want the deficit decreased or wiped out and on the other hand, they want to spend more money for various reasons and on various programs.

The third aspect is, while trying to do this juggling act, as the Treasurer has to, they are asking him to cut revenues that might be available to the government. I do not think it is possible to have all of those.

If that party chose one and said, "We think it is most important to eliminate the deficit," I could understand what it is saying. However, when they want us to do all three things, that is quite impossible. It really speaks to the fact that there is no consistent Conservative philosophy any more. At one time I used to at least admire the fact that the Conservative Party had a philosophy: that the government cut the deficit and that it did not spend money to be involved in a number of innovative programs except at election time. Now I find out all of that has disappeared. I would like the member to explain that.

**Mr. Speaker:** As it is now 6:30, the member for Cambridge may wish to adjourn the debate and respond next Tuesday.

**Mr. Barlow:** I am prepared to move the adjournment of the debate and have everybody return on Tuesday next, when I will be glad to respond in kind.

On motion by Mr. Barlow, the debate was adjourned.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, May 19, the House will not sit because of the Victoria Day holiday. That is a gift from the Treasurer.

Tuesday, May 20, we will continue with the budget debate. Wednesday, May 21, will also be budget debate. Thursday morning, May 22, we will be dealing with private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) and the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes). On Thursday afternoon, we will continue with budget debate.

The House adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



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# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**

Tuesday, May 20, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC





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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 20, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## VISITORS

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery, on the east side, members of the special committee on rules, procedure and privileges of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories: Ted Richard, MLA, chairman of the committee; Elijah Erkloo, MLA; Arnold McCallum, MLA, and Michael Angottitauruq, MLA.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** It has been arranged with the other parties that we can deviate in a minor way from the rules to introduce a very distinguished delegation that we have in the Speaker's gallery. These are guests of ours from the province of Guangdong, China. They are visiting a number of companies in Ontario and have had an opportunity to visit across our country.

I am delighted to introduce them. I apologize that they are on a tight schedule. First, Mr. Huang is the Vice-Governor of the province of Guangdong. Welcome, sir. Guangdong is a province of some 62 million people. If members ever think we have problems here, we recognize that Mr. Huang has his fair share of problems as well.

Mr. Li is the Secretary of the province of Guangdong. Mr. Lu is the chairman of the science and technology committee. Mr. Wong is the director of the energy and technology committee. Mr. Xin is the director of foreign economic relations and trade, province of Guangdong. Ms. Zhu is the interpreter and has so far prevented all international incidents.

I welcome you all to our province.

**Mr. Stevenson:** We were informed that this was going to occur later on. Unfortunately, our leader, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), is not here to respond.

However, I would certainly like to bring greetings from our party. I have had the fortune to deal on previous occasions with members from China on trade matters and I have always been very impressed with the people and with their sincerity when they come to visit here and want to talk to the people of this great province.

I have had occasion to meet previously with their consul general in Ontario, and we welcome him, along with some of his staff. We certainly look forward to continuing great relationships with and visits from the people of China.

**Mr. Rae:** It is heartening to see that visits by many delegations from China, as well as visits by many Canadians from all walks of life and governments of all stripes to the People's Republic of China, are becoming a matter of routine. This is enormously encouraging for relations between our two countries and our two peoples.

Our party takes pride in the fact that for generations Canadians have had a strong relationship with the people of China. We take pride in the number of Chinese-Canadians who live here. We take enormous pride in the fact that we are beginning to expand our trade relationships. We welcome this delegation as we have welcomed others, Mr. Consul General.

For our part, we look forward to the visit to China by the Premier (Mr. Peterson), which I understand will take place in the fall. Given the success of previous leaders of government during their visits to Asia and the impact that has had on the domestic situation, we wish him a long and healthy voyage and a long stay away.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr. Andrewes:** I would like to draw the members' attention to a problem of health care accessibility that apparently exists all over Ontario. Some time ago, my colleague the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) raised the issue of the problems encountered by Sheri Grant of Iroquois Falls in obtaining speech pathology treatment.

Recently, we learned about the case of three-year-old Vanessa Grace Parker of Guelph, whose father was told by the local health unit that she must wait until the winter of 1987 for an assessment because of a shortage of staff. In a letter to the Guelph Mercury, a frustrated parent, Peter Holley, points out that the same health unit has some 79 children on its list waiting to be evaluated and that his son, who is in kindergarten, must wait nine to 12 months. We appeal



again to the government to act on this serious problem of health care accessibility.

#### PROTECTION FOR HOME BUYERS

**Mr. Mackenzie:** What protection do new home buyers have in Ontario? Last October Josie and Vincent Piccolotto of Cannon Street East in Hamilton signed an offer to purchase to Veneto Construction for a new home at a cost of \$105,000. They paid \$30,000 down and proceeded to sell their own home in November. In February 1986, when the roof went on, they made an additional payment. The closing date was to be April 18, 1986.

Construction virtually stopped at that point and the builder now has said he cannot honour the agreement to purchase at \$105,000. Lawyers have advised the Piccolottos to accept the refund of their deposit because it could take two to three years for the courtroom route and, in the meantime, they have no place to live. The Piccolottos wanted the house, but felt they had to take the deposit back to protect themselves.

The builder, Veneto Construction, has relisted the house for \$139,900. The builder, Mr. Cocco, says another customer paid \$10,000 over the original price. He asks why he should take the loss, and what more do the Piccolottos want; after all, they got their money back. The builder is out nothing except perhaps his reputation. The Piccolottos have probably lost \$20,000 because of later entry into the housing market as well as faith in the system, a system that allows builders to take windfall profits better than it helps families to buy housing at an agreed price. Is this what we mean by the private enterprise, market-place economy, and what is this government prepared to do?

2:10 p.m.

#### HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

**Mr. Ferraro:** I seem to be making a habit of rising in this House to speak about the Guelph Holody Platers junior hockey club. Today is no less an auspicious occasion, for on Saturday our Guelph Platers represented the city of Guelph and the province in fine fashion in Portland, Oregon, by winning the Memorial Cup, which is emblematic of the Canadian junior hockey championship for Canada. They did so in fine fashion by beating the team from Hull, Quebec, six to two.

For the more mature members in the House, I might point out that the last time Guelph won the junior hockey championship was in 1952, with such stalwart players as Frank and Andy

Bathgate, Lou Fontinato, Ron Stewart and Dean Prentice.

This accomplishment is even more significant, acknowledging the fact that this hockey team has been in existence for only four years. It is a credit to Rob Holody, the general manager, and Jacques Martin, the coach, and all the players on the Platers hockey team. I want to conclude by thanking in particular the owner, a gentleman by the name of Joe Holody, who invested significant amounts of money, time and effort and brought much gratitude, tribute and honour to the city of Guelph and to Ontario.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

**Mr. Pope:** On Friday, May 16, 1986, the community of Winisk was devastated by floods, in which one 76-year-old man died and one woman is missing and feared drowned. Most escaped by travelling to higher ground by canoe. According to the helicopter pilots on the scene, some swam through the snow and icy waters to reach the helicopters waiting on the ice floes, from thence to be transported to Winisk airport.

The entire community of 130 people was moved by DC-3 to Attawapiskat some 200 miles away. They are now living in what has been called a tent city and expect to be there for the next few months. Of the entire community of 60 buildings, only seven remain and all seven are seriously damaged. The chief says there may be nothing to go back to.

We are approaching the first anniversary of the natural disaster, the tornado in Barrie. On the fifth day since the happening of the flood the comparisons are revealing. Within 18 hours of the tornado, the Premier of the day, the Solicitor General of the day and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of the day were on the scene. Within 24 hours, the financial assistance package was set and funds were flowing for both public and private loss.

What do we have here? We have only one representative of the government and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) sent a—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member's time has expired.

#### ADOPTION LEAVE

**Ms. Bryden:** Recently, I told the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) that a working couple in Toronto was ready and willing to adopt an older child to balance its family, but was unable to do so because Ontario has no law providing for adoption leave. A natural parent is entitled to 17 weeks' maternity leave under the Employment



Standards Act. The minister replied that he was considering closing this gap when he had finished reviewing the whole Employment Standards Act, and something might happen some time in the future.

I would like to point out that there is such a shortage of adopting parents for older children that there is no waiting period for them in most areas. However, many children's aid societies require one of the adopting parents to take time off for a specified period when a child becomes available. Without an adoption leave law, working parents cannot be assured of their employer's permission to take leave or to be guaranteed their job when they return.

#### TABLING OF INFORMATION

**Mr. Polsinelli:** On Tuesday and Wednesday last week, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) rose in this House and expressed his frustration at not being able to get responses from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) to his questions, in Orders and Notices, written letters and estimates inquiries.

As parliamentary assistant to the minister, I considered it my responsibility to follow up on the member's inquiries. The member pointed out he had twice placed question 100 in Orders and Notices. What he neglected to point out is that the first time he placed it, the question was addressed to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). I would have thought the member realized that the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Occupational Safety came under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Labour.

The member placed his question again, addressing it to the correct minister the second time around. A full response has been directed to cabinet office.

The member stated that he has not had responses to several letters since July 30, 1985. I beg to point out that the member is most modest. He has neglected to point out that he has written to the minister more than 70 times in less than 10 months and, in fact, a number of the letters referred to as not being answered have received replies. Given the large amount of correspondence he handles, undoubtedly they have been lost in the quicksand of the member's office. I have brought along copies of those replies for the member.

One letter in particular caught my eye. It dealt with workers in Timmins who were not wearing their safety hats as required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act. I point out that those workers were laying sod in an open field.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

#### RACING INDUSTRY

**Mr. Stevenson:** I have learned of a probable announcement of support to the racing industry. The then Treasurer, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) realized some time ago that there was need for additional support to the racing industry and commented that money should be tied to improving facilities in that industry. The former Premier, Bill Davis, appointed Frank Drea to study the industry and report back to cabinet. The Treasurer receives \$67 million a year from racetrack tax plus provincial sales tax and the industry employs 50,000 workers.

2:17 p.m.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

##### DISASTER RELIEF

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** As the members will be aware, the far northern community of Winisk suffered major flooding last Friday. Tragically, one person is dead and another is missing. Ontario government searchers are still looking for that missing person.

Residents of the community have been airlifted to Attawapiskat by people from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Contrary to what we heard a few minutes ago, when ministry people were asked by the federal government to assist, they were there right away and stayed all weekend, as did the Ontario Provincial Police with their helicopter and Twin Otter.

Yesterday I flew over the area with Chief George Hunter to view the damage. George Hunter phoned me on Saturday. I had a wedding to attend, so I could not fly right away but flew there the next day. It took 10 hours to get there and that was enough. I am a minister and the MPP of this area, not the MPP for Cochrane South.

It is clear the people of Winisk face a very difficult time ahead in relocating and re-establishing their lives after this disaster. My purpose in rising to speak today is to outline for the House the role we expect the province will be playing in this process in the days ahead.

I have spoken with my colleagues, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître), this morning. We will be recommending to cabinet that Winisk be formally designated a disaster area as soon as possible.



A local disaster relief committee will be appointed and the province will match funds raised by that committee on a ratio to be determined when a full assessment of the damage has been made.

Winisk itself is damaged beyond repair and plans that had already begun to relocate the community above the flood plain at Peawanuk will be accelerated as part of the relief effort. I will be meeting with Chief George Hunter and representatives of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development of Canada tomorrow morning and Thursday. We will be discussing how the two governments can co-operate to ensure that the re-establishment of Winisk begins immediately and proceeds without delay. In the meantime, every effort will be made to ensure that the displaced residents of Winisk are looked after, including the provision of clothing.

**Mr. Bernier:** In response to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, with respect to the disaster at Winisk, I must advise the House that I think it is a very flippant and casual way to deal with a major disaster in a small community in northern Ontario to come to this House five days late and without any presence there.

I had the privilege of speaking to a member of that community this morning at the Thunder Bay airport, and he told me the presence of Ontario government people and help were nonexistent. Here is a whole community being wiped out, and the minister and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) are busy somewhere else.

I have to tell the Premier that when a disaster occurred in Attawapiskat several years ago, the then Minister of Lands and Forests and I flew up there, we viewed the site, we passed a walking order in council and we gave them \$50,000 on the spot. When the Cobalt fire occurred, the Honourable René Brunelle and I were up there with the late John Rhodes. We passed another walking order in council and gave them half a million dollars.

We did not say, "We will recommend, we will do this and we will set up a committee." How is the minister going to set up a committee in Winisk? Ninety-five per cent of the people are on welfare. He should provide them immediately with a sizeable sum of money and get on with the job. Look after the people and do it right. To flip it off so casually is inhuman.

**Mr. Pouliot:** Regarding the calamity that has struck the second-most remote or northern community in Ontario, the community of Winisk, in the past few days, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines should really give the

House his assurance with all the sincerity at his command that not tomorrow, not soon, but now everything within his power will be done to make sure the residents of Winisk not only are airlifted out but also are relocated in a decent environment.

It is not a time for jurisprudence; it is not a time to procrastinate or to spin wheels. It is a time for sincerity and urgency.

**Mr. Wildman:** In regard to the tragedy at Winisk, I join with my colleague and emphasize that the minister in his statement indicated a local disaster relief committee will be appointed and the province will match funds raised by that committee in a ratio to be determined. I want the minister to recognize that this is a special situation and that at Winisk one-to-one matching grants do not make any sense. I urge him to go at least to four to one, as there is a precedent for that, and have the other local share come from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. That should be counted as the local funding. I urge the minister to take that approach.

**Mr. Rae:** I want to comment on the disaster at Winisk and the circumstances facing the people who have been moved, to indicate to the government that it is our view, as has already been expressed by my colleagues, that, first, there should be cash up front. That should have been in the minister's statement today. While I notice the minister stated that clothing and so on would be provided, a cash commitment from the provincial government today would make a big difference in giving that community the realization that there will at least be a minimum commitment with respect to cash from the provincial government, as of now, not next week, and not some matching grants to be determined later.

The other comments that have been made by my colleagues indicate the concern that is shared by all members. If our own homes were destroyed in this kind of circumstance, all of us would want to know the provincial government is there, as the federal government is, because its particular responsibilities are there.

If any of us on this side of the House can do anything to move the process along in terms of getting people moved and getting them the housing, clothing, help and all the circumstances they need, our party is only too willing to join in that effort. I know we will be willing to do as we did in the circumstances of the Barrie disaster: name one of our members, together with a member from the Conservative caucus, to serve



together as a three-party group that will oversee the relief work. Let us get the money into those people's hands today and not put it off until next week.

### AGRICULTURAL FUNDING

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** As the honourable members will recall, in August the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and I put together a staff group from our two ministries to look at agricultural finance. We wanted to see what steps we could take in the short term and in the long term to alleviate some of the financial pressures on the agricultural community.

The interministerial task force on agricultural finance has completed its evaluation. It has made many thorough and imaginative recommendations contained in the report, which I am tabling today. Some of the recommendations in this report form the basis for improvements in three financial assistance programs announced in last week's provincial budget.

The key point the task force identified is that governments can mitigate the most harmful effects of the transition to new economic realities, but they cannot reverse trends in the global economy. Government's role should be to ensure that the industry is strong enough to take advantage of emerging market opportunities.

The report identified major problem areas in the agricultural sector: cost and availability of credit, high capital requirements for agriculture, commodity prices and incomes, and farm management. Other issues that are also affecting farm financing were difficulties in adjusting output to match market conditions, excessive debt loads and the availability of social and employment services in rural areas. Among the recommendations for immediate action were enrichment and expansion of the beginning farmer assistance program, the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program and the farm operating credit assistance program.

In the longer term, the task force called for an ongoing review of current assistance programs, exploration of alternative farming arrangements such as shared cropping and leasing and a review of credit legislation—in particular, section 178 of the Bank Act as it relates to the Personal Property Security Act.

Since the government of Canada is the major player when it comes to long-term agricultural credit, the task force also examined Ottawa's role. In this area, recommendations suggested that the federal government examine guarantees for private mortgages through the Farm Credit

Corp., expand that corporation's lending to include assets such as equipment and change the federal Farm Improvement Loans Act to include guarantees on fixed-rate loans.

As I mentioned, some of the recommendations in the task force report have already been incorporated as part of our new provincial budget, and we will be evaluating the application of the other recommendations of the task force in the weeks and months to come.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I wish to respond to the announcement of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. We welcome the extension of the three programs that were named. They are not terribly new and imaginative. One was brought into place by the present government, but the beginning farmer assistance program and Ontario farm adjustment assistance program were brought into existence by the previous Progressive Conservative government.

The findings of the interministerial task force sound remarkably familiar. If the minister cares to read the report of the federal-provincial committee that was set in place by the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) not all that long ago, he will find some remarkable similarities.

I point out to the government that, just as I had expected, the interministerial task force has not even considered the United States farm bill in its deliberations. Here we have probably the biggest single issue that is aggravating extensively the commodities price situation faced by all Canadian farmers, and it is not even mentioned in the report of the task force.

The thing that made me suspect it had not considered it was that just three to four weeks ago the minister finally established a committee to look at the implications of the US farm bill on Ontario agriculture. We have farmers with most of their crops in the ground. They have already made all the production decisions for this year. They have had to make them on the basis of the factors in place in the marketplace, the US farm bill being one; and here we have a government task force report that has not even considered the implications of the US farm bill.

In the grains and red meat area, Saskatchewan and Alberta are our major competitors, the other big players in Canada. Both of those governments already have provincial assistance programs in place that respond directly to the effects of the US farm bill. Even the federal government has made announcements in Western Canada and in Ontario that ease the impact of the US farm bill on farmers today.



The only major player in the agricultural industry that has yet to respond is Ontario. It is not surprising to me that there is no further word on the decisions of this government to deal with the US farm bill when our cash-hungry farmers have had to deal with it already.

**Mr. Ramsay:** On this side of the House, the third party welcomes the introduction of this task force on agricultural finance. I point out to the minister, though, that nothing in here addresses the problem of the farms that we are losing today and will be losing tomorrow and shortly down the road. I ask the minister whether he will consider some mechanism, which I will leave to him, to stop the haemorrhaging that we have of the farms in this province every day. It is something we have to act on immediately.

In looking at the long-term problems, the task force says we must examine the current assistance programs. I suggest to the minister that just doing that does not really address the problem. We have some very good Band-Aids in place today, and I support him on that, but we are still not addressing the problem of coming up with some sort of long-term finance for the province. We always abdicate to the federal government. It is time we looked at the Province of Ontario Savings Office or some other mechanism so that Ontario will get into long-term farm finance, instead of just the federal government.

**Mr. Grossman:** It is indeed a shame that the people of Winisk are not as important to this government as the people of Barrie and Field were to the previous government.

2:32 p.m.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Premier with regard to the Ontario Medical Association negotiations. Can he tell us whether his government and the OMA will explore ways this evening to improve accessibility to the system?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I am not attending that meeting this evening. I think the Leader of the Opposition should talk to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). I will refer this to him.

**Mr. Speaker:** Did the Premier refer the question to the Minister of Health?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Yes.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I do not think that we on this side of the House have ever started talking about meetings, whether they are scheduled or not scheduled or whether there is any particular

content to them. We have never found that to be helpful. The Leader of the Opposition expressed some concern about negotiating in public, and we have maintained our position on not discussing particular agenda items in public.

**Mr. Grossman:** I will address the supplementary to the Minister of Health. It is ironic that, having answered dozens and dozens of questions in the House, the Premier today chooses to lob this over to the man who has been charged only with carrying the luggage and the suitcases to the meetings. However, if, when the going gets tough, the Premier wants to duck out, we understand and we will ask the question of the Minister of Health.

Is the minister not prepared at least to disclose to the public, not what the government is putting on the table, not what the OMA is putting on the table, not the details of how much money the government has offered out of the Canada Health Act money to the doctors, but in negotiations surrounding a bill regarding, to use the minister's own words, accessibility, that he will be discussing improved accessibility this evening? Can the minister not acknowledge that is what he will be discussing this evening?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable member knows full well—and in fact on one occasion or another he has supported the idea of an end to extra billing as a way of improving accessibility—that the whole issue which we are talking about really revolves around those people who are being punished for being ill by having to pay more than what is provided for under the insurance benefits schedule.

What we are doing and what we hope to accomplish with these discussions and negotiations is to arrive at a way to ensure that the patients who require medical attention are not punished by having to have their wallets examined or having to pay more for insured benefits.

**Mr. Grossman:** The only proposal I have heard which would punish people for getting sick is the proposal put out by the Premier to introduce the concept of what he called a good idea, a health tax. If the minister and the Attorney General are negotiating to avoid the burden of paying extra when people get ill, that is, accessibility, would the minister not acknowledge that the doctors have already agreed to end extra billing for seniors, people on public assistance and emergency care patients, which covers 50 per cent of all cases? If the doctors are coming this evening to have further discussions with regard to further steps they can take, would the minister not agree that it is tantamount to



irresponsibility and bargaining in bad faith to put out an ultimatum and threaten to cut off negotiations when that progress is being made?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** First, the member is again in error, as is his usual habit, when he tries to assess how many people are being excluded under the four-point proposal which has been thrown into the public by the OMA. It is our analysis that probably 30 per cent of those people it was talking about extra billing would be affected by that.

From our standpoint, we talk about the population of this province as a whole. We cannot countenance people who are ill and in need of assistance being required to pay more than the insured services. It is the very basic premise of providing medical care in this province that people should not have to have their wallets examined before they get the necessary medical treatment. That has been at the basis of this whole question for a long time and we are not going to back down on that.

It is very evident to me that the member's analysis is again wrong. It means, to me in any event, that he really does not understand the critical need to ensure that every patient in this province can have access to the medical practitioner of his or her choice.

**Mr. Grossman:** We not only understand that but we also understand the skill of negotiation, which is not silly ultimatums put forward by the Premier which will cause a strike in this province.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. New question.

#### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Mr. Grossman:** My second question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. We already have dioxins in Ontario's drinking water. Over the weekend, we found that our food is a much larger source of exposure to these toxic chemicals. When the Minister of Agriculture and Food was questioned on this issue last fall, his answer was merely that he was going to monitor and test. Monitoring and testing seem to be the only action the ministry has taken. In view of the reports issued over the weekend, what is the minister actually willing to do to reduce the levels of these chemicals in our food?

2:40 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** The answer was in the speech from the throne when we indicated we are going to put up a modern food-testing lab which could be operational within the next two years.

We are also going to expand the pesticides lab. Right now, we are limited in the amount of testing we can do, as is the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry of the Environment has been conducting tests of water for dioxin levels, but it has not been accustomed to testing foods for dioxin levels; this is relatively new.

I must remind the member that this situation is not unique to Ontario. Dioxins are being found in food throughout the world, and we cannot be an island unto ourselves. We will do what we can, and I hope other jurisdictions will follow the lead of our Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) in trying to reduce contaminants in the atmosphere. The fact is that many of the contaminants are blown by wind and dropped by rain that comes from many other jurisdictions. We have to work with other jurisdictions to try to reduce dioxin levels. We cannot do it in Ontario alone.

**Mr. Grossman:** Last fall the minister said in response to a question on this very topic that he was monitoring and testing. Is he now telling the House that he is going to begin testing and that the information he supplied to the House last fall, that he was monitoring and testing our food, perhaps was incorrect? What is his position?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** As the member well knows, we have been continuously testing such products as meat and milk for polychlorinated biphenyls. We asked the Ministry of the Environment to test fruit, and it has been testing apples since we first heard that there might be a dioxin problem with such fruits as apples. The test results have not revealed the same kind of results the Toronto study revealed.

The Minister of the Environment is attending a meeting today, I believe in the United States, and he will be meeting with the author of the Toronto study to gain more facts. He will be back in the House tomorrow and will make a statement on dioxin levels in food as reported by the press. We test meat and milk, and we have been testing apples since we heard there could be a dioxin problem.

**Mr. Grossman:** I thought the minister said earlier that he was not testing meat and other products, except apples, for dioxin. If he were testing for dioxin, why did he not turn up the same levels the study has turned up? Is he taking the position, as the minister has with drinking water, that there are safe levels of dioxin in Ontario's food? Is there such a thing as safe levels?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** Our tests have definitely indicated that the amounts of contaminants found



in food, not only of dioxin but also of PCBs and other contaminants, are well below the standards set by the Department of National Health and Welfare and well below the standards set by the world testing organizations. We do not want to discount one little bit any kind of study or any kind of finding, but the tests we have been doing indicate the levels are far below the acceptable standards.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENTS

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Premier, who knows that Ontario and this Legislature will be hosting Bishop Tutu next week. I would like to ask him whether he is aware that the Ontario municipal employees retirement system—OMERS, the pension fund—has investments worth more than \$400 million in firms currently dealing with South Africa. Does he not feel it would be not simply an appropriate gesture but also an appropriate policy of this government to indicate by means of regulation that all investments in companies dealing with South Africa should from this point on be sold by the government of Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** The member raises a very good point. It is something I have thought about and have even discussed with my colleagues. As he knows, a number of other agencies of the crown, or at least transfer agents such as universities and others with endowment funds, hold securities registered in South Africa. It was our view that to bring in a policy probably would be unenforceable and that we could not extend a real enforcement mechanism to make it viable.

I am mindful of what the member says, and I think the views he expresses are constructive. As the member knows, we appoint most of the OMERS representatives. I could be wrong about that, but I believe we appoint most of the board. They act independently; we do not give them investment advice. However, it would be most constructive for me to send a copy of the Hansard of this discussion in the Legislature to them for their consideration.

**Mr. Rae:** We are looking for a little more than that. The Premier should be aware that section 14 of the act involving that pension fund makes it clear that the Lieutenant Governor in Council can make regulations governing the administration of the fund, including the receipt, deposit and payment of all moneys of the fund. The powers are there. We are not talking about general powers with respect to other bodies. We are speaking directly with respect to the money that

is invested in corporations where one can decide to either sell or keep those securities.

Is the Premier aware that between 1979 and 1984, Dominion Securities Pitfield, along with McLeod Young Weir, were the major Canadian players in the underwriting of nearly \$1 billion on behalf of the South African government and two of its state-owned agencies and that these bonds will mature between 1987 and 1997? Can the Premier tell us whether the government of Ontario is planning to change any of its dealings with respect to Dominion Securities Pitfield, which most recently did a major study on Suncor, given its work with respect to investments in South Africa?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Frankly, I was not aware of the facts that the member has raised in this House. That could very well apply to a number of other brokerage houses in this province. I do not know the answer to whether they deal in South African securities or whether they have made a moral statement in this regard.

I understand the points the member raises with respect to Dominion Securities Pitfield; they were doing a valuation on the Suncor situation. McLeod Young Weir was instrumental in the purchase of the Suncor shares and advised the previous government to purchase. The member will recall that. It just proves no one is perfect all the time.

It is something I am prepared to review. We have to look at it in terms of its broad brush, whether it is just OMERS or other pension funds. I do not know whether the teachers' superannuation fund or any of the other funds are carrying any of these securities. What about university endowments, hospital endowments and a number of others?

I am one of those who believe we should make moral statements on things we believe in, but we also have to be most cognizant of the limitations of our power. It is something I will review and discuss with the honourable member and other members who are interested in the subject.

**Mr. Rae:** When Bishop Tutu addresses this assembly, I know he will want to be able to say with pride that he is speaking in an assembly that has decided to do something with respect to investment in South Africa. I hope we will be in a position to do that.

I wonder whether the Premier is aware that the South African Council of Churches passed the following resolution at its national conference in June 1985: "We express our belief that disinvestment and similar economic pressures are now called for as a peaceful and effective means of



putting pressure on the South African government to bring about these fundamental changes this country needs."

If that is the position of the South African Council of Churches, and I hear the Premier saying he wants to do something, he should look at the province's investment in Massey-Ferguson and at the dealings with Rio Algom, which has an extensive mine in Namibia. He should look at areas where right now Ontario does not have clean hands, where we can take some steps that are not simply steps of general principle but ones that will have a practical effect on the events in South Africa.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** As the honourable member speaks on this issue very sincerely and passionately, he will understand the potential broad reach of some of the things he is suggesting. It is one of those things: When does one stop?

The member knows this province has taken a strong stand with respect to the purchase of South African wines. That is something we had the power to do, and we made the moral decision to so do. The member is aware that we also made the decision as a government that we would not allow South African products to be tendered on contracts awarded by this government. Those are two significant and substantial things that have been done that we could control and have controlled. Other governments have talked about them, but they have chosen not to make those decisions in the past.

I will review with officials how much power we have in this regard and how wide our reach is in these matters. I am prepared to review it and discuss it in future with the honourable member.

2:50 p.m.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Is the minister aware that 150 students who were to be working this summer at the Kidd Creek mine have recently received letters indicating their services will not be required this summer? Is he aware of widespread rumours that have been reported in the media in Timmins with respect to an impending announcement by Kidd Creek officials on possible layoffs? Is the minister aware of any layoffs that may take place at Kidd Creek? Can he give us any information? Will he please share it with the House?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** I do not have any details concerning those layoffs. If the member has some, I will be very pleased to receive them.

**Mr. Rae:** I was afraid that was going to be the answer. Is the minister aware that Falconbridge, the recent purchaser of the mine at Kidd Creek, has indicated there may well be an announcement later this week? As a minister, how does he feel constantly being taken by surprise with respect to these layoff announcements, which have come rapidly across northern Ontario with very little warning?

What steps does the minister intend to take to stop the layoffs and to make sure there is at least a decent notice period for the community, for the workers involved and for the government of Ontario, which is so frequently left having to pick up the pieces? What is the minister going to do to start getting tough with respect to these?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** In most cases, we are privy to most of these layoffs. Some of them we can solve and help; some we cannot. As I stated before, if the member has details, I will be very pleased to have them and to look into them.

**Mr. Ramsay:** With the free fall we are seeing in the northern economy, does the minister not think it is time that we, and especially the government, started to take a proactive stance to halt these layoffs and to build an economy up north so we can live there and be prosperous, like the people in southern Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** The member will find this government is becoming very proactive and will be doing something about the problems in the north.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

## EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Grossman:** My question is for the Attorney General. Does he stand by and endorse remarks made by one of his aides, who said to the media last week that his government can declare doctors' services essential and outlaw their right to strike? To quote his aide: "The Legislature is almighty. It can do what it wants." Does the Attorney General associate himself with those remarks and that statement of intent?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I did not see the quotation to which the member has referred. If he would like to send it over, I would be glad to take a look at it. I do not agree that the Legislature is almighty.

**Mr. Harris:** Does the Attorney General agree that he is?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** That has just demonstrated the point.

**Mr. Speaker:** Was that the supplementary?



**Mr. Grossman:** We know the answer to that one. I will send the quotation over to the Attorney General.

**Mr. McClellan:** The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) should take it over.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Let him bring it over.

**Mr. Grossman:** What is the member nervous about? I will hand it to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) to take over.

Is anyone in the Attorney General's ministry currently considering any options, drafting any legislation or looking at any way in which doctors' strikes could be ruled illegal?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** We have looked generally at the question. I do not think it will be necessary to undertake any such steps. If it is, we will be able to turn to it when the time comes.

As far as I can tell, there is no suggestion in the press at present that the doctors have indicated they will withdraw emergency services. I expect that if they feel strongly, they will continue to provide emergency services. I understand the member for Brantford, who speaks for his party on this issue, strongly supports that attitude.

#### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Mrs. Grier:** I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food, who today seems to be somewhat uncertain as to what monitoring and testing his ministry is doing with respect to contaminants in food.

Last December, when the federal government issued and then withdrew its Storm Warning pamphlet, the minister was very clear in his response to questions. He said: "I had indicated we had monitored milk and fruit. I do not see any reason why we cannot make that report available."

Why have we had no reports made available to this House from this ministry about the testing being done for food? In view of the fact that the Toronto Board of Health, the International Joint Commission, Environment Canada and the Royal Society of Canada are all finding contaminants in food, is his ministry finding the same results?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** The ministry now monitors milk, meats, fruits and vegetables for pesticides and other residues to the extent that our current pesticide laboratory permits. One of the reasons we are hoping to expand the pesticide lab is that we know we are limited in what testing we can do.

Since we first heard there could be dioxin problems, we asked the Ministry of the Environ-

ment if it would test apples for any dioxin levels. The Ministry of the Environment did that, and it did not come up with the same results as the Toronto study.

The Ministry of the Environment found only octachlorinated dioxins, which is the least toxic form, at trace levels. These were found at seven and 46 parts per trillion, which is 5,000 to 25,000 times below the recommended maximum daily intake figure for these compounds. Milk samples are being analysed, and the results will be available in six weeks time.

**Mrs. Grier:** I hope the minister will table those results, because I think they would be of interest to all members of this House. In view of his commitment last December to do that, I hope he will do that.

Has the minister seen the report that was put out by the Toronto Board of Health? If so, does he disagree with its finding that fresh fruit is now the major nonoccupational route of human exposure to selected persistent chemicals in the Great Lakes?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** My ministry and I have not seen a copy of that report.

**Mr. Grossman:** Have you not seen it?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** No, we have not. We have not seen a copy of the report.

**Mr. McClellan:** We will send him a Xerox.

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** Good. As I indicated, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) will be pursuing further the Toronto study, and I trust that is the report to which the member refers, at his meeting in Michigan this afternoon. He will be talking with the author of that report, and I am sure he will have some facts to give to the House tomorrow. I have not seen a copy of the report.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I have a further question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In the past when there was food contamination, very quick studies were done on the particular foodstuff in question and a report made available very quickly. Is the minister suggesting today that there is less testing being done on the food supply in Ontario than has been done in the past?

3 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** No, I am not saying we are doing less testing, but our facilities are such that we cannot do as much testing as we would like, and that is the reason we are hoping to get an expanded pesticide lab in place before long. We continue to test meat, milk, fruit and vegetables for any kind of pesticide residues and any polychlorinated biphenyl residues that are brought to our attention. The member well



knows that when the PCB problem in milk first came to our attention we immediately started to test. We found the traces of PCB were very small. They were well below the standards that are set.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I find this a little confusing. The minister is saying pesticides and dioxins in the same breath; dioxin is not a pesticide used in Ontario agriculture. Is the minister saying from the data he has seen or that has been reported that most of this comes from the Ontario production system or that it is transported by weather? Exactly how is this showing up in Ontario food?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** It is my understanding that in the past there have never been any studies of dioxin residues in food and that this has come to the front just recently. When I first heard there was a dioxin problem in fruit, I immediately asked the Ministry of the Environment to conduct tests on apples to see what results it was able to get. The results it got did not coincide with the results of this Toronto study. It must be remembered that this is a preliminary report, and even the report said far more monitoring and testing have to be done to come up with any kind of reliable results. These are nothing more than preliminary results. We will continue to monitor to the best of our ability. We are hopeful that when we get our food lab and pesticide lab in place, we will be able to do far more testing to ensure the safety of all.

**Mr. Rae:** It is appalling that the minister has admitted he had not even seen this report before coming into the House today. That is a shocking statement. It is available to the press and it is available to members of the House. I do not know why the minister would come into the House and make a statement with respect to a report he has just admitted he has not even seen. Will the minister tell us why he has not published the information he now is quoting in the House? Why was information not made available until it was flushed out of him today?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** It was only within the past few weeks that any testing was done for dioxin in fruit in this province. It was brought to our attention not long ago that there could be a problem with dioxin levels. We asked the Ministry of the Environment to do a test. The member will have to ask the Minister of the Environment whether the ministry has completed tests to its satisfaction. The minister can be questioned tomorrow about what kind of testing for dioxin levels in fruit has been done in the past, with what results, and what is being done now. It

is the Ministry of the Environment that is doing the testing.

**Mr. Rae:** Is the minister aware that the study found that PCB levels were higher in Ontario and Quebec beef than in beef from other provinces, that PCBs were found in whole milk from southern Ontario with an average concentration of 0.889 parts per billion and that PCBs were found in mothers' breast milk with average PCB levels in Ontario being the highest, which could put infants at risk and could potentially affect brain development? Is the minister aware of these facts? Why was he not here today with a statement to this House with respect to the evidence that has come forward in this study? It has major implications for the future of health care in this province. Why is he not making a statement on it?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I think the member is confusing PCBs with dioxins. Is he asking me about dioxins or about PCBs?

**Mr. Rae:** No, I am not. I asked about the whole study.

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** As far as I am concerned, any tests done for PCBs in milk were revealed to the public. As far as dioxins are concerned, the testing has been done only recently and has been brought to our attention in very recent times. To the best of my knowledge, the Ministry of the Environment is still testing fruit, such as apples, for dioxin levels. When the tests are completed, the Minister of the Environment will likely reveal the results. From the information I have been given by the Minister of the Environment, the dioxin levels in apples are well below the standards set by the Department of National Health and Welfare and by world food organizations.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

**Mr. Poirier:** I have a question of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines pertaining to the Winisk flooding. I would like to know how many times the minister has met with Chief George Hunter and what the specifics of Chief Hunter's request were to the Ontario government in general and to the minister specifically.

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** I would remind my friends the members for from Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) and Kenora (Mr. Bernier) that there was a flood last year at Fort Albany, and I did not see them over there. They were campaigning. I left my campaign and went there last year because I care for the people.



First, I got a phone call Friday afternoon at 4:30 from Ernie Sutherland, the chief of the Moose Factory band, from Chief Hunter and from Pat Chilton, the executive officer of the Muskegog Cree council, telling me what was happening. I told them my son was getting married Saturday, and they said, "Okay, come Monday." They wanted me to come Monday. I said: "I will be there Monday at seven o'clock. I will leave Hearst." They said everything was under control with the Ministry of Natural Resources people, the Ontario Provincial Police and the feds.

Second, I talked to Chief Hunter just a few minutes before I arrived here. He is coming tomorrow night with his wish list. For him it is a new airport on a new site. Second, he wants to relocate the village completely.

**Mr. Harris:** Supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** New question.

**Mr. Grossman:** Why not? He asked one question; then there is a supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** No supplementary. The honourable members passed some new rules a very short time ago. Therefore, I cannot allow a supplementary.

#### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Mr. Grossman:** My question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Why has he decided to test apples for dioxin and not other products?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** Apples are a product that we grow to a far greater extent than some of the other fruits, such as peaches and what have you. They are grown throughout various parts of the province. This is the fruit that would have probably the most exposure to any contaminants in the environment, and this is the reason I asked that apples be tested. If there is any indication on apples, it may well be that there are also some traces of the contaminant on other fruit. Apples are the one fruit we grow in large quantities and they would certainly have the exposure to any of the contaminants in the atmosphere.

**Mr. Grossman:** Does the minister mean to tell the Legislature and the people of this province that he had enough concern about dioxin perhaps being in apples that he spent a modest amount, and it must have been very little money, to test apples, but not enough concern about dioxin perhaps being in other products, that he would wait until the apple study was done and then worry about dioxin in other products? Is his position that he was worried about dioxin, so

he tested apples; but he was not worried enough about dioxin that he would test meat and everything else?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** If there were no traces of dioxin in apples, it would only follow that there would be no traces, or very little trace, of dioxin in other fruits.

It is the Ministry of the Environment that does the tests for dioxin. In the pesticides lab of my ministry, we test only pesticide residues on fruit. It is the Ministry of the Environment that tests this. When I first heard there could be a problem, I asked whether it would test apples. It did test apples and found that the traces of dioxin in apples were well below the standards acceptable to the Department of National Health and Welfare.

**Mr. Rae:** There are no standards for dioxin.

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** Yes, there are. National Health and Welfare indicates—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

3:10 p.m.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Wildman:** I have a question of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines with regard to a statement he made on May 2 to the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, which was quoted in the District News. Since the minister indicated to the NOMA convention, when it was pointed out that the price of gasoline was 56 cents a litre in Red Lake as of May 1, that his ministry would be setting up hearings on the high gasoline prices in northern Ontario in the next two weeks, and the two weeks are already up, can he indicate where and when these hearings are going to take place?

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** I will answer that tomorrow. I will bring the list of the meetings tomorrow. It should start this week or next week. I will check on it. It is supposed to be on.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** Surely the minister must realize that while he and his colleagues continue to procrastinate on this issue, the difference in gasoline prices is getting even more extreme with competition in the Toronto area bringing the prices down to about 35 cents a litre while prices in the north remain at 45 cents to 55 cents a litre. Why has the minister not yet consulted with northerners on this issue, and when is he going to take action to protect consumers and businesses in northern Ontario that pay such a tremendous penalty for their gasoline?

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** Those meetings will take place. I am meeting with all the members from



the northeast in Timmins on May 31 on that issue, and we will see. I know what the member means because I am from the north. I buy quite a bit of gas and I know how much it costs. There should be something positive come out of those public meetings, where everybody will have the chance to speak up.

#### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister indicated earlier he had certain information that caused him to investigate and test apples. Can he disclose to the members of this House the source of that information?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** We had a briefing about the tests and the results from one of the people on the study committee, and we also met with a—

**Mr. Grossman:** Which study committee?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** It was an International Joint Commission and Toronto study. We met with one of the people who was conducting the study, and he brought to our attention the kind of results that might be forthcoming. Based on the short briefing we had, I asked if we could have apples tested for dioxin levels. I have not had a copy of the report cross my desk nor has it been brought to any of my ministry people.

**Mr. Grossman:** Does the minister mean to tell this House that someone involved with this very same study indicated to him some months ago concern about dioxin in Ontario's food and that his only response at that time was to test dioxin in apples? Is that what the minister is telling us?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I am saying we were not meeting about this problem, but one of the things we happened to discuss was the study that was being done. We got a short briefing on the study itself, and there were signs of dioxins appearing in our foods, not only in Ontario but also throughout the world. When I first learned there could be—

**Mr. Grossman:** When was that?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** A matter of three weeks ago.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Would the members take their seats.

#### RENT REVIEW

**Mr. Reville:** My question is to the Minister of Housing. Tenants in Ontario have been waiting with hope for rent review legislation since the accord was signed last May. The minister's own

landlord and tenant advisers have been waiting since they tabled their report over a month ago. We are all waiting. When is the minister going to introduce his new and improved bill? Will the bill faithfully reflect the recommendations of the Rent Review Advisory Committee?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** We will very shortly be bringing forward the bill for second reading and it will reflect some of the changes that have been recommended by the tenants' and landlords' advisory committee.

**Mr. Reville:** The Rent Review Advisory Committee has recommended that the government provide 3,000 nonprofit and co-operative housing units annually, in addition to current commitments, until every person in Ontario can be housed. In the light of the minister's answer to my question, why then is there not one word or one dime in the budget for those additional housing units? Is the government making a mockery of its own process?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** Let me remind the member that \$500 million was projected in the previous budget and the commitment in the recently tabled budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) showed that we will be right on target, producing 6,700 nonprofit housing units this year.

**Mr. Reville:** What about the 3,000 extra?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** As the member can see, we have a project to extend that to 6,700 for the next five years. The recommendation of the landlords and tenants suggests an additional 3,000. It is something we will look at very seriously.

#### ELECTRICIANS' LABOUR DISPUTE

**Mr. Ferraro:** I have a question for the Minister of Labour. As late as this weekend, a number of my constituents who are affected by the electricians' strike have come into my constituency office, as I am sure people have gone to many other constituency offices. Can the minister tell the House the status of the present negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** As all members know, province-wide bargaining is now under way and has been for some time. The honourable member raises the point that in the case of the electricians, and today in the case of the tile workers, legal strike action has commenced. Officials of my ministry, both conciliators and mediators, have been involved since the outset and remain involved with the parties. We are obviously



hopeful that the strikes of the electricians and the tile workers will indeed be short.

I can tell the House that the bricklayers reached an agreement, which I understand was ratified in the past few days. Whether the settlement in that agreement will set a pattern and other settlements will follow is hard to tell at this stage. However, I assure the member that the most senior officials of the ministry, including the assistant deputy minister in charge of industrial relations, have been in constant touch with the parties and remain available to lend any assistance to lead the parties to successful conclusions in the bargaining.

### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Mr. Rowe:** I had a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), but in the absence of the three ministers of Health—the minister, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott)—who are all out of the House right now, I shall direct my question to the Treasurer, if he is in.

Interjections.

**Mr. Rowe:** He is in the wings.

I am sure the Treasurer is aware of the problems the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie is experiencing these days. Here is another case. A 31-year-old woman lay on a stretcher in the emergency department for three days. Before we have more of these dehumanizing cases, when can we expect to hear that the Treasurer will act to authorize the Minister of Health to give a start date for a new hospital in Barrie?

3:20 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member knows the commitment made in the budget. He knows that was money in addition to all the previous commitments. We also said in the budget that the Minister of Health would be announcing the beginning of this five-year program of rejuvenation and rebuilding. He will make that statement as soon as it is ready.

**Mr. Rowe:** On April 18, 1986, the district health council advised the Minister of Health, when it forwarded the Teasdale report to him, to go ahead with the new hospital in Barrie. The Treasurer has said he has more than \$400 million for our area. How long is his government going to continue to hide behind the district health council?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The district health councils were a creation of our predecessors, just as our predecessors on more than one occasion promised the hospital to which the member is

referring. I can assure him that when the Minister of Health makes his statement in this connection, if the building is justified, as I presume it is, it will be a part of the statement. The member knows district health councils make recommendations to the ministry. That is their responsibility. The minister then must decide what action is to be taken.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is very difficult with all these out-of-order interjections. I will wait.

### ELECTRIC SHOCK THERAPY

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services regarding the use of contingent electric shock therapy in the institutions for the developmentally handicapped in the province.

It has come to my knowledge that they are using this therapy at Cedar Springs, Durham Centre and D'Arcy Place, whereas at Rideau Centre, Woodstock, Huronia Regional Centre and any of the other institutions they are not. Does the minister support the use of electric wands or cattle prods in his institutions or does he see them, as I do, as a means of replacing more staff-intensive and more humane therapy for the severely disturbed?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** Shortly after joining this ministry, I asked for that very procedure to be explained to me and that a report be prepared indicating when, where and under what conditions it was used. It was explained that it was used at some facilities. As a matter of fact, it is down to two now. My understanding is that 23 residents had this used on them in the past year, which would represent approximately one half of one per cent of all our residents.

The difficulty we have from a professional point of view is that there is not general agreement among psychologists and psychiatrists as to the effectiveness of this procedure. The difficulty they have, however, is that a small number of our residents are very self-destructive. They are attempting to find ways to avoid this happening and to decrease the amount of damage residents do to themselves. A study is under way right now. A report has been received; it has been reviewed to see whether there are other procedures or practices that can be used instead.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** I know there is disagreement. The minister is quoted as saying that he believes "the result of the review will be fewer intrusive procedures being carried out and a more rigorous regulation of staff conducting the treatments." The minister knows there are



already rigorous guidelines out there for the staff. He indicated that only 23 people had been subjected to this horrendous kind of treatment. Even if there is disagreement on the minister's panel, will he not come out soon and say that he is opposed to this and that in 1986 in Ontario, he finds it intolerable, as we do?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** One of the reasons I asked that the review be done was that my initial reaction was opposition. I think it would be the initial reaction of most people who are not familiar with the procedure and the particular type of residents who, from a medical point of view, may actually require something like this.

The difficulty I have, and the difficulty I would share with my honourable colleague, is that when I have gone into the facilities and talked to the front-line staff, not just the professionals, they have clearly indicated to me that there are times and there are residents for whom this procedure is the only thing that works.

It is very easy for me or for my honourable colleague to say, "Do not do it." I am not in that situation; I do not have to deal with a particular incident. I do not like it, and I will go as far as I can, as will my staff and the professionals, in finding an alternative system. However, I will not say to the staff or to the front-line people in the facilities that they cannot do one thing until we have something that works in its place.

#### SALE OF BEER AND WINE

**Mr. Runciman:** My question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Last week, members of the Legislature and people in the municipalities learned, through another of this government's infamous rotating leaks to the media, of a plan to allow local option in determining whether beer and wine will be sold in grocery stores. Since the minister is supposed to be representing municipal interests, will he please tell the House where he stands on this issue?

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaître:** On this side of the House, it is not where I stand; it is where the government stands. The member opposite will find out as soon as an answer is given to him.

**Mr. Runciman:** It is obvious that this so-called consultative government has once again failed to consult—another triumph of rhetoric over substance.

Will the minister commit himself to making his actions match the government's rhetoric and consult with the municipalities to ensure that their views are conveyed to his cabinet col-

leagues prior to any final decision being made on the local option proposal?

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaître:** I assure not only this member but also this House that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario will be consulted as far as the distribution of beer and wine throughout this province is concerned. I will be meeting with AMO very shortly, and this is on my agenda.

#### NURSING HOME

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I have a question, in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. It falls in line with the question the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) has asked, except this time it deals with nursing home residents.

Will the minister investigate the following memo, which appeared at Rockcliffe Nursing Home in Scarborough? I will read part of it. The gentleman's name is used, and it says he "is not allowed to change his pants during the day. His pants are to be kept in the back room. If he wets himself, he must stay in wet clothes in his room or in his underwear in his room till the next day, when he will be given another chance to achieve continence. If this is not done, we will not be able to solve the problem. When this happens, trays must be ordered for him to eat in his room."

The list goes on of the type of adverse therapy that is used for this gentleman in this nursing home. Is it not time we had an amendment to the Nursing Homes Act that brought in a bill of rights for patients in this province?

**Hon. Mr. Van Horne:** It is not a pleasure to respond to a question like this, because I agree that the conditions described by the member for Windsor-Riverside are deplorable. I will take the question under advisement, discuss it with the Minister of Health and report back to the member as soon as possible.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I should point out to the minister that I phoned the nursing home and confirmed that this was put up in the nursing home. Although it has since been withdrawn, it points to the mentality prevalent in some of our nursing homes in the province.

Does the minister not agree with me that it is a basic right in the nursing homes of this province that confidentiality should be respected and therefore these types of things should not be posted and that individual dignity should be respected? Does he not agree that if all this is



confirmed when he investigates, charges should be laid against this nursing home?

**Hon. Mr. Van Horne:** I can only submit that I will take the question under advisement. In matters of confidentiality, there may well be some factor of which I am not aware, wherein there may be the intent to do something positive for the patient. Without full details, I am not prepared to answer further than to say we will investigate and report back to the member.

**3:30 p.m.**

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Housing has a response to a question previously asked by the member for Ottawa Centre.

#### RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I think the question was directed to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), who in turn redirected it to me. I think it was asked last Thursday, May 15.

The member should note from statements made in this House on May 5 that the government has expressed its concern about the loss of rental housing from severances of row housing and that the implementation of this policy will be accomplished under the Planning Act rather than under Bill 11. The Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) has written to all municipalities outlining the new procedures regarding severances of rental properties. The member may wish to direct questions to the Minister of Municipal Affairs if she is unsure about the specifics of how the government policy of severances will be implemented.

**Ms. Gigantes:** If I can repeat the main item of my question of last week, it is to know whether, with whatever kind of measure is brought forward by whatever ministry, severances that are now not complete will be allowed to go ahead without due process.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** As I said, the procedures for the severance considerations are with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and he may be able to respond in more detail as to how severances are dealt with.

#### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Brandt:** I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, who has indicated on a number of occasions, as has the Premier (Mr. Peterson), that they will be active participants in the free trade negotiations between Ottawa and Washington. Will the minister indicate to this House today not only that he is

prepared to share with this House information he may have in his possession with respect to the free trade matter but also that he will include members of this House in those discussions so we can be active participants in responses given on behalf of the province to the federal government?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** As the member knows, negotiations are to start this week with preliminary discussions. We are constantly in touch with the Premiers of other provinces, and our trade negotiator is sitting in on most of these meetings. I can assure the member that we will try to keep the House advised as these talks go along.

#### NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to inform the House that notice was given last week by the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) that he was dissatisfied with a response by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye). I know we look forward to listening to further discussion today at 6:30 p.m.

#### PETITIONS

##### NATUROPATHY

**Mr. Ferraro:** I have a petition signed by 50 people, most of whom are from my riding, pertaining to the situation of naturopathy.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

**Mr. Callahan:** I have a petition with 40 names on it.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that



would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment.”

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. Barlow:** As members may recall when we adjourned the debate on Thursday, I had been asked a couple of questions which I would like to respond to now in the brief time allotted to me.

First, the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) asked me to address a couple of points. He was particularly concerned about the trucking industry and wanted to know my position on deregulation. I have no hesitation in telling him that my position has not changed: I am opposed to deregulation. It was during discussion with the then Minister of Transportation and Communications that I suggested his bill on reregulation should be brought forward as a discussion paper and not be introduced in the House for first reading.

The member asked me about my position on ad valorem taxes. I have no hesitation in supporting the ad valorem tax. If it were in place at present, the trucking industry would not be paying as much fuel tax as it is. This is a message we have been trying to get across to the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) during the past couple of days.

The member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke) asked me to respond to three items. One is my position on Ontario health insurance plan premiums. We were trying to point out that it is one of the promises the Premier (Mr. Peterson) made during the election campaign a year ago that he did not keep. We did not make that promise. There are other promises the Premier has not kept, but it will take too long to get into those.

My position on beer and wine in the corner stores has not changed. I am opposed to it, and 66.8 per cent of the people in Cambridge are opposed to it. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario is opposed to having the buck passed to municipalities. It is easy for me to respond to that.

The member also wanted to know my position on the stand we made on the economic—

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. Barlow:** I was talking as fast as I could.

**Mr. Philip:** Commentators on this budget have labelled it a conservative budget. Some less kind have labelled it a Conservative budget from a previous decade. Essentially, those commentators in the press and in this House have been correct. While the budget does not directly do an awful lot of harm to individual middle-income persons, average persons in Ontario, it does very little to help those people.

The Treasurer has argued in the media that he has created a budget of balances, one that takes various interests into account and tries to reach a happy equilibrium. He argues and admits that grave injustices still exist but that now is not the time to make the changes. A majority of the population of Ontario voted for change in the last election. One must ask why the changes are so slow in coming. This budget, and the provincial Liberal government which drafted it, had an opportunity to make some important changes. The government fumbled its opportunity.

3:40 p.m.

Essentially, I believe the citizens of Ontario want fairness in a budget. Forty-two years of Conservative Party rule in Ontario have created a series of policies that are basically unfair to the average wage earner. This budget and the speech from the throne fail to deal with that problem of fairness. The budget does nothing to repair the gross imbalance between corporate and personal income taxes. It does nothing to correct the injustices which I have pointed out exist in the present property tax system. It does nothing to counterbalance the tax system of the federal Conservative government, which this year will allow some people to earn hundreds of thousands of dollars without paying any taxes on those earnings, while middle-income earners must continue to pay higher and higher taxes.

While this budget has increased spending that directly benefits the citizens of Ontario by \$79 million—and here I speak of increasing services for the larger senior citizen population and home care for the disabled—it gives almost that amount to the highest-paid profession in Ontario, the medical profession. The doctors, whose average take-home income is \$120,000 a year, will be getting \$65 million. That contrasts rather sharply and it says what this government is all about.

While the government can give an extra \$65 million to the doctors, it fails to eliminate Ontario health insurance plan premiums for the working poor. There are 318,000 individuals below the poverty line. This budget eliminates OHIP premiums for only 35,000 people, a far cry from



the Liberal election promises of the Premier and his Treasurer.

Any fair-minded person would say those below the poverty line should not pay income tax. In spite of this, while those doctors with average incomes of \$120,000 a year can get yet another \$65 million of taxpayers' money, this government has decided that anyone with an income of more than \$2,075 must pay income tax. I cannot imagine a person living on that amount of money. In this House, that amounts to roughly five per cent of what the minister and I earn. The Liberal government across the floor has decided those people should pay income tax.

I represent a riding where a large number of constituents must commute to work by automobile. Many of them work north of Steeles Avenue. Many of them work in the Woodbridge area and many of them work west of the riding of Etobicoke in Peel, Mississauga and parts farther west than that. They have no choice but to use the car. Many of them are shift workers. They work at all hours of the night. They commute back and forth to work. Yet, as we have seen over and over again, a number of us have raised in the Legislature the problem of increasing costs of gasoline.

The Ontario Motor League provided us with some interesting figures, which we in this party had already brought to the attention of the government, and yet this government does not deal with the issue of increased taxes on gasoline. We were able to get somewhat of a rollback and use the leverage of a minority government to convince the Treasurer in the last mini-budget that gasoline taxes should not escalate at the rate at which he had contemplated. None the less, they are still far too high.

Similarly, if we look at what is happening in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, we see that the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter), even though he clearly has constitutional powers to deal with the problems of the oil companies and the prices they are charging for gasoline, has failed to do anything. Since the end of November 1985, the price of crude oil has dropped about 65 per cent compared to a 15 per cent drop in gasoline.

David Sellers, president of the oil and gas division of BP Canada, said on March 20 that Ontario motorists at that time should be paying only 35 cents to 40 cents a litre for gasoline, and yet the provincial government, which has the power to investigate and to roll back the gouging of the oil companies, has failed to do so. It is not

just the president of BP who has admitted that the oil companies have kept prices artificially high by several cents a litre, but the president of Shell also made a similar admission.

Then we have the strangely silent member who represents consumers in Ontario saying he could not move on this. When we brought it to his attention in the House, he said he had met with the oil companies and felt somehow these prices were justified. Similarly, the provincial government has failed to take leadership by saying in no uncertain terms to the federal government that its hikes in gasoline taxes are too high.

As members of the New Democratic Party have pointed out in the House of Commons, the federal hikes in gasoline taxes stem from that government having to make up for the large losses in its revenue as a result of the massive tax giveaways which have been bestowed on the oil industry over the years after signing the energy agreement known as the western accord. In that accord, the federal Conservative government agreed to phase out of petroleum and gas revenue a tax on oil revenues that brought in an annual \$2.5 billion to the federal Treasury. As a consequence, the government has had to make up its shortfall by increasing the amount consumers pay in direct taxes on gasoline.

We see how this is a clear example of a direct transfer of wealth from the consumers to the oil companies. These increases in prices, aside from taxes, have taken place at a time when oil industry profits are fairly high. There was an astounding increase of 43 per cent in 1984 and a further increase of 12 per cent in the first half of 1985. Imperial Oil alone reported its overall profits for 1985 up 28 per cent over 1984 for a total profit of \$684 million.

Where is the provincial government when it comes to speaking up for the consumers of Ontario against the federal Conservative government, which has been responsible for large oil and gas increases? How is the consumer being protected by this provincial government in dealing directly with the oil companies when it has the power to do so?

This government and its Treasurer will go down in history as the government that had an opportunity and was afraid to act. One of the most tragic areas of inaction is pension reform. When I speak to constituents who have come from Europe, who have relatives in Europe or who have even visited some of the European countries, they find it very hard to understand how we can have a government that allows



industries to rip off the savings of ordinary working people through their pension funds.

The Minister for Consumer and Commercial Relations acts merely as an apologist for these companies. His reasoning is that there is nothing illegal. If there is nothing illegal, one must ask, why not make it illegal. Other countries have. Why is there nothing illegal about the behaviour of employers, who this year have already skimmed off almost \$190 million from pensions? It is obscene, it is unfair and it is unjust. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations simply says that while pension surpluses rightfully belong to the employees, there is nothing illegal about the companies taking those moneys.

**3:50 p.m.**

The minister recently introduced the draft pension bill, but it fails on three fronts. It fails because it does not require the indexing of pension benefits to changes in the cost of living; it fails because it does not end the legalized theft, and that is what it is, of the surpluses by the plan sponsors; and it fails because the changes for part-time workers do little to provide these people with any kind of economic security.

Part-time workers earning more than \$140 a week on an annual basis for two consecutive years will be eligible to join company pension plans, but there are several problems. On the average, part-time workers work 15 hours per week. On this basis, someone earning less than \$9.45 per hour will not qualify, and less than half of the regular, paid labour force is covered by any pension plan whatsoever.

We have had an abominable failure by this government in dealing with the problem of security for our workers when they are older. Just as the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has failed to deal with the problems of gouging by the oil companies and the problems of gouging by those corporations that take the surpluses from their own pension plans, that steal from their employees, so too he has failed to deal with the issue of skyrocketing insurance premiums.

When the leader of our party, the member for York South (Mr. Rae), asked the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations what he intended to do about the fact that automobile insurance is going up so much higher in this province than in other provinces, when he asked why premiums fell by seven per cent in 1985 in Saskatchewan, are frozen at present in Manitoba and fell by two per cent in British Columbia but in Ontario insurance prices are escalating at 20 to

25 per cent, the minister said, "It is a philosophical problem with you people."

What is philosophical about the people in my riding paying 20 per cent to 25 per cent more this year for automobile insurance? Surely they deserve the same rights as people in other provinces. Surely there is nothing philosophical about that; it is an economic issue. It is also an issue of will. Plainly and simply, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is afraid to act on behalf of the consumers in this province against the insurance companies.

At the beginning of my speech, I condemned the government for its tardiness in moving towards a fairer system. Time and again I have stood in this House and tabled very extensive research showing that there is basic and profound unfairness in our property tax system. Research which I tabled and which the Minister of Revenue, who is also the Treasurer, found extremely interesting showed that those people in the north end and in the extreme south end of Etobicoke have been paying excessively high property taxes compared to those living in the more affluent centre of the city.

I have also spoken out about the frustration that my constituents and I have in the courts of revision, where no rules seem to apply, where it is not necessary to give reasons for decisions and where no one seems to know why he has had his taxes either reduced or not reduced.

I have spoken about the problem of the person who shows some initiative and improves his home suddenly finding he is paying higher and higher property taxes. The minister knows about my private member's bill on the issue. I do not believe that people who live in their own homes and improve them should suddenly be faced with higher property taxes, provided those renovations are not excessive. My bill says that if you improve it up to the cost of \$10,000, you should not pay higher property taxes. In fact, \$10,000 in materials would be an average kind of improvement that the average working person in my riding would make on his home, perhaps during the winter months, when some are unemployed and have the time to do that.

The Goyette commission pointed out that those whose homes are in areas that pose an environmental problem should have special consideration given to them. To the credit of my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), who fought on behalf of home owners over the urea formaldehyde foam issue, Goyette says essentially that it is the same principle. If someone is in an environmentally damaging



area, then there should be some consideration when he comes to pay his property taxes.

In my riding we are faced with noise from railways, we are faced with noise from the airport and we are faced with noise from Highway 401. Other people, such as those in the High Park area, may be faced with pollution of the nostrils. One can go on and on, but essentially Goyette makes an interesting point. It is something the Minister of Revenue, who also happens to be the Treasurer, should consider.

In a previous speech I outlined some of the more serious disagreements I have with the Goyette report, and I am pleased the Minister of Revenue has responded to at least one of them, namely, that it makes absolutely no sense to reassess on an annual basis one set of home owners—condominium owners—as was proposed, and not reassess others. Had that been implemented, it would have meant that condominium owners in this hot market would have had astronomical increases in property taxes. The minister has, to his credit, responded favourably to my criticism in that direction.

However, he still remains insensitive to the need to have a direct comparison between condominiums in a neighbourhood and single-family detached homes. I cannot understand why he is insensitive to this. It makes so much sense. It seems fair that one home owner should pay taxes similar to those of another home owner.

While we are talking about condominiums, I found it unfortunate to read the statement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations that he did not see a high priority in tabling the new condominium bill that the Canadian Condominium Institute and the Etobicoke Condominium Association have been awaiting for more than two years.

Mr. Speaker, you will certainly recall that when the last condominium bill was debated, every one of the amendments proposed by the Etobicoke Condominium Association save one, a minor one, was defeated by the joint efforts of the Liberals and the Conservatives voting against condominium home owners.

Maybe that is the reason the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations does not want to bring out his new condominium bill. Maybe he knows his party is no more sensitive to the issues and the concerns of condominium owners now than it was when it joined with the Conservatives under the minority government and voted against the condominium owners in this province.

**4 p.m.**

The government states in its throne speech that it is committed to a policy of efficiency. Time and again, as our party's critic on government spending, I find examples of inefficiency.

My colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), who is here in the House, will tell members about the tremendously inefficient way in which this government decided to sell off a major crown asset, the Urban Transportation Development Corp. It was not based on any transportation policy; it was not based on any analysis that it would be a good idea to sell this company for reasons of economic development. The government simply decided it should make a list of which crown corporations could be sold off and it decided UTDC was the most saleable. No transportation issues were studied. No economic issues were studied. It was merely, "Let us make a list and find out which of the goodies in our bag we can sell off most easily."

**Mr. Foulds:** It is even having difficulty doing that now.

**Mr. Philip:** It cannot even do that properly, and on Thursday in the standing committee on public accounts, my colleague the member for Port Arthur and I will be dealing with that. I have tabled a notice of motion that will be debated this Thursday. It deals with a further inquiry into the real value of UTDC. Have the actions of this government decreased its value?

**Mr. Foulds:** Absolutely.

**Mr. Philip:** "Absolutely," my colleague says. What kind of business sense is there in the actions of this government when it has gone about the sale of this company in such an unbusinesslike fashion?

We have also dealt with the issue of the dome. All three parties in this House agree there should be a domed stadium. Some of us disagree with the site. Some of us, as in my case, may agree with the chairman of Metro Toronto who, as mayor of Etobicoke, thought it should be in Etobicoke. Others may have favoured other locations. That is not the issue. The issue is that the previous government in a sweetheart, behind-the-scenes deal managed to put together a sweetheart consortium of companies and excluded other companies.

We in the New Democratic Party said that while we were committed to building the domed stadium, we were not committed to that kind of government inefficiency. We forced an inquiry and we can see now, in one announcement after another, that more companies are coming in.



With each company coming in, we are saving the taxpayers an amount of \$5 million.

It was interesting to watch the Liberals in that committee, because they were slow in responding. They did not know whether they wanted an inquiry. They were defensive. When they were in opposition, they were very aggressive about what was happening. They joined with New Democrats in trying to force open what was happening. In government, they are very slow indeed.

The most recent example was the appearance of Ontario Housing Corp. officials before the committee only a week ago. After questioning Mr. Beesley and other OHC officials, members of the committee were not satisfied with the way in which the public purse is being spent by that corporation. As early as 1978, I raised in this House the problem of security guard contracts with various ministers, yet eight years later we are still faced with the deplorable situation of sweetheart contracts, violations of the Manual of Administration and charges by the Provincial Auditor against the way in which OHC has handled its business.

What we have is a situation in which a former deputy chief of police was hired by OHC to recommend how security should best be conducted. One could not write this kind of scenario. Not only is he paid for the report, but also he recommends that one company, a private enterprise company, should be set up exclusively to handle security for Ontario Housing. Having made that recommendation, he then proceeds to form that company and without tender to get that very contract, a \$4.3-million contract.

The Ministry of Housing and OHC officials are now coming before the public accounts committee. It is not bad enough that we have had one scandal after another with security firms during the last Conservative government. Now, under the Liberal government, OHC comes before the public accounts committee and clearly demonstrates that it has made no effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the company's work and that it has just provided that company with a five-year sweetheart contract of \$24 million, once again without any kind of tendering.

Where has the minister been for the past 10 months that he has not said: "This is an atrocity. I am going to step in and deal with OHC. I am going to tell them once and for all to smarten up their act, to deliver effective security systems to the tenants of Ontario Housing and to stop these policies that are against the Manual of Administration, that are against OHC's own operating

manual and that are highly questionable when it comes to protecting the taxpayers of Ontario"?

Even this Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), who constantly goes on studying one thing after another and taking very little action, would abhor the answers we received in the public accounts committee. We are going to call the officials back, because we do not think we got straight answers. We do not think we got answers that are acceptable to us or to the Provincial Auditor, Doug Archer.

Ontario Housing is not only mismanaging from the fiscal point of view; it is also mismanaging from a human point of view. Nothing is more in need of reform than the transfer system at Ontario Housing. As the members know, a person in Ontario Housing may transfer only on grounds that he or she is overhoused or underhoused, or is in need of a unit closer to work or study, or that there are medical grounds for the transfer—and just try and get them on medical grounds; very few are granted.

There were recommendations by the standing committee on administration of justice which the Liberals on that committee signed along with the New Democrats, a report that admittedly was defeated by the Conservatives once they got their majority. Those recommendations clearly asked for a revision of the transfer policy, yet I will give a case I have just written about to the Ombudsman. I will not use the person's name.

"Dr. Dan Hill, Ombudsman of Ontario:

"You will find enclosed documents related to a complaint by the above-mentioned constituent."

If I use words that seem to you to be a little strong, Mr. Speaker, you must remember that I have been writing over and over again to Ontario Housing and to various Ministers of Housing about this problem since 1978.

"You will find the complaint arises from yet another asinine, stupid and incomprehensible rule concerning transfers by Ontario Housing. Mrs. A, out of a sense of Christian compassion, took in a young boy who had nowhere to live. This young boy was literally on the street, and he was brought to her by the children's aid society. He had been living with Mrs. A since 1985. A family court judge, in dealing with the matter, ruled that this boy was better living in that family than anywhere else."

We have not only approval by the children's aid society but also a family court judge looking into it. What does Ontario Housing do? As the boy grows older, it becomes necessary to have larger accommodation. "Ontario Housing has



now refused to allow for a transfer to a larger accommodation on grounds that a foster parent relationship is not a permanent one." The children's aid says this boy belongs with that family. The family court judge says the boy belongs in that family.

**4:10 p.m.**

Mrs. A has a two-bedroom apartment and because she has a bad back condition, her older, teen-age daughter cannot sleep in the same small room or in the same bed with her. It is obviously unreasonable to have that daughter sleep in the same room with the boy who is being housed by this family. However, because Ontario Housing has decided this is not a permanent relationship, this woman, who out of a sense of Christian charity and compassion has done a good turn, is being penalized and cannot get an apartment appropriate to the size of the family she now has. That is the kind of game that OHC plays.

I am looking forward to the report on Ontario Housing to be brought down by Dan Hill, who is doing an excellent job of revising and improving the Office of the Ombudsman. He has agreed to my request for a systemic study of Ontario Housing. He has agreed to start with the report of the standing committee on administration of justice that put forward 119 recommendations on what is happening as far as mismanagement of this corporation is concerned, and he will be tabling a report with the committee.

But why does the Minister of Housing not make the changes when there are such obvious abuses? Why does he have to wait for the Ombudsman to bring down his report, as he will because he is a tremendously reasonable person, a man who has proven himself in the human rights field—

**Mr. Runciman:** Another Tory appointee.

**Mr. Philip:** And to the credit of the Conservative Party; albeit he was appointed without consultation with the other two parties, none the less it was a good appointment made by the then Premier of Ontario, Mr. Davis. Why must we wait for him to bring down his report for the Minister of Housing to go and look at these problems and to make the necessary changes?

When the new chairman of the Ontario Housing Corp. was appointed by the present government, he was quoted as saying that he hoped "to bring a little more comfort, a little more dignity, a little more security to its 84,000 residents." There has been no indication that this has been happening. One must ask, why is the current situation allowed to continue? Why would the Minister of Housing, who is sitting

across the floor listening to me—if the other member would not be interrupting him while I am addressing comments to him—not act to bring about the kinds of reforms that his own members recommended in the justice committee in 1977?

Earlier in the speech, I talked about how the budget manages to find an extra \$65 million for the highest profession in this province but fails to deal with some of the basic health care problems. In the past, I have been critical of the government's health care delivery system. I have argued that it has been overly dominated by the Ontario Medical Association and by one group of health practitioners, namely, the physicians and surgeons of this province. I will not repeat the kinds of comments I have made.

I recognize that the current Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) has said he is open to looking at other disciplines. But why, on Thursday, April 3, were recommendations made by the health professions legislative review committee and released by the Minister of Health? The committee recommended that naturopathy be deregulated, ostensibly because it does not pose a risk to the public and it is too difficult to define. Such a proposal means that virtually any one of us can set up in this province as a naturopath, without any kind of training or discipline. I find that shocking.

My wife happens to teach nursing; so she is not a novice in looking at health care programs. In the past, my family has found that naturopaths had insights for certain types of treatment and could provide therapy that perhaps was not available from other health professionals.

This proposal denies the people in this province their right to choose a disciplined profession that has served us well. It will expose the public to the danger of unqualified and unregulated practitioners calling themselves naturopaths, and it will adversely affect the practising naturopaths and the prospects of present and future naturopathic students.

These are not people who have walked in off the street and developed some pseudoscience. These people, many of whom I have had contact with and talked with, are either doctors of medicine plus naturopaths or chiropractors plus naturopaths or they have a background in other health disciplines before they take the very rigorous program that allows them to put the designation of naturopath next to their names.

Naturopathy is a well-established, reasonable profession that has been in existence in Ontario for 61 years. Why does this government wish to



deregulate it and ruin a system that has proven itself to be of use to the citizens of Ontario?

It seems all the more ludicrous that this policy is coming forward at a time when the Science Council of Canada has stated that we should be going in the opposite direction. In April 1986, a report released by the Science Council of Canada stated that Canada's medical system relies too much on expensive cures and too little on various types of health professionals other than the doctors or the medical profession, and yet this ministry seems intent on going in the opposite direction, at least as far as this one profession of naturopathy is concerned. It simply does not make sense.

While we are on the topic of health and health care, during the recess of the Legislature, I served on our party's task force on health and safety. I was surprised at the testimony we heard in Peterborough, in northern Ontario and in the city of Etobicoke, where we had some hearings.

In 1979, the present Occupational Health and Safety Act came into existence after pressure from the public and the New Democratic Party. While the legislation was an improvement over the previous legislation, it was not long after the act came into force that we realized it was not being enforced. The present act fails to provide workers with the explicit right to a work place free of hazards. It does not have any stated purpose at all.

In 1963, the International Labour Organization defined the object of occupational health as the promotion and maintenance of the highest degree of physical, mental and social wellbeing of workers in all occupations. As we went around this province, we heard horror story after horror story.

For example, we heard from a group of women who came forward in Etobicoke to say that the manager in their company appointed every member of the health and safety committee. In Peterborough, we heard from someone from the Deseronto-Napanee area who told us of a company owner there who had said, "The first time a health and safety inspector arrives in this company, I will close down the company and move it 30 miles away." It may have been 50 miles away; I do not remember the exact mileage. In any case, that is the type of intimidation that is going on.

**4:20 p.m.**

While I was shocked at the stories I heard in places such as Peterborough and from delegations from Deseronto, Napanee and Trenton, the thing that occurred to me, and it came through

very vividly, was that there are major atrocities going on in even the most highly unionized, most sophisticated companies.

The worst case I heard was one I wrote about in an article for the Etobicoke Advertiser-Guardian. It bears repeating, because this is not a small company we are dealing with; it is not a nonunionized company. We are dealing with one of the most sophisticated, technologically advanced companies in the country, with one of the most sophisticated unions.

In October 1985, there were complaints by some workers at McDonnell Douglas who were using a particular cleaning solvent. They were using it to clean the inside of airplane wings. The employees claimed they were having health problems. One worker was off sick, and a probationary employee was let go because she experienced health concerns and the company did not want to keep her on. The company allowed a health and safety representative of the employees to talk to only some of the workers but not to others. Indeed, that health and safety rep was ordered away from the work site.

Under pressure from the union, the industrial health and safety branch of the Ministry of Labour finally took some tests on December 4, 1985. Some of the readings exceeded 6,000 parts per million. This contrasts to a maximum eight-hour exposure allowed for that particular chemical of 350 parts per million. In other words, the employees were being exposed to more than 20 times the allowable limit. The allowable exposure limit of 25 parts per million was exceeded by more than 10 times.

What did the Ministry of Labour conclude? It concluded that it was safe to continue working with these dangerous chemicals if a respirator was worn. The union appealed the inspector's decision on the grounds that the respirators were rated for only up to 10 times the allowable exposure and that dioxin could be absorbed through the skin. One must ask what kind of incompetence there is in the Ministry of Labour. Not only do the masks that they say will protect the workers not protect them, but they do not recognize that this very dangerous carcinogenic product can be absorbed through the skin.

This case is interesting, because there are 55,000 chemicals in use in Ontario, of which 250 are known carcinogens. Yet when we went from plant to plant, we saw time and again that Ministry of Labour officials did inspections in a manner that can only be called sloppy, that they were overworked and understaffed and that in some instances the companies seemed to know



when they were coming: the windows were open, the ventilation systems were put on and so forth.

On the same topic, last week I tabled a notice of motion in the standing committee on public accounts dealing with the safety associations in Ontario. There is \$31.4 million going into these safety associations at the moment. In 1975, when these safety associations were established, they were provided with \$9.97 million. By 1985, we had skyrocketed to \$31.4 million. In spite of such large expenditures, injuries and health-related problems in the work place have increased by 24 per cent in the past two years.

One must ask, are we getting value for money? How is it that we are spending more and more on these nine health and safety associations and yet getting a constant increase in workers' compensation claims? It is our understanding that last year close to \$1 million was spent by the Industrial Accident Prevention Association in travel alone; on legal fees, \$45,000; on memberships, \$12,000—all this for 200 employees.

Taxpayers have a right to know where the money is going, and we in the standing committee on public accounts, in dealing with the resolution that will be debated on Thursday, have a right to know. We have a right to know why in 1984 the IAPA moved its headquarters in Toronto from 2 Bloor Street East to 2 Bloor Street West. Even though there was an offer of a location down the street at half the price, with 30 per cent more space, it somehow ignored and refused that space.

We will want to know what relationship there is between the expensive portraits of present directors on the walls of the five very nice boardrooms in that association and the matter of health and safety in this province.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Are those the oil paintings?

**Mr. Philip:** They are the oil paintings. I am the greatest promoter of the arts. I love the arts. I go to the theatre whenever I can. I go to the art galleries. However, one wonders whether this is the way to promote the arts in Ontario. If they did a portrait of the Treasurer, I would much prefer that, because he is somebody I know and greatly respect, but with portraits of these characters, one wonders whether the money is being spent in the best way possible. We will be looking into that.

Related to health and safety is the fact that as we went around the province and talked to employee after employee, to various unions and to various people not connected to any union, they told us over and over that the health and safety associations meant very little to them.

They did not receive any training, or few of them did, through the health and safety associations. One must ask whether nine associations are necessary, whether there could be economies of scale by combining some of them and whether the safety associations are the right way to proceed in the first place.

I found it interesting when I heard the comments of the small businessmen in response to the Treasurer's budget. A number of them talked about workers' compensation premiums going up, not about their taxes going up. This is not only a safety issue in terms of the employees but also an economic issue with regard to the employers and the amount of money we are spending in constantly increasing workers' compensation premiums. Why are they increasing? It is because the accident rate is going up, and the safety associations are obviously not having any substantial impact at all.

When we talk about health and safety in the work place, the other face of that is health and safety in the environment. In dealing with the St. Clair toxic blob, we in the New Democratic Party put forward a nine-point program of environmental laws to this government. We suggested that there be improved enforcement and the institution of higher minimum fines for polluters and that government be prepared to use the Environmental Protection Act to send the corporate executives to jail if toxic spills are found to be deliberate or to show wanton disregard for public health. That has happened in the United States.

We asked that the government enact clear standards for all discharges to waterways, with automatic penalties for violations, and that the government develop an Ontario superfund for chemical cleanups, in which those who generate and dispose of chemical wastes eventually pay for the cost of the cleanup.

**Mr. Haggerty:** The user pays.

**Mr. Philip:** The user-pay system for corporations. Why is it we can have a user-pay system for citizens, but when it comes to corporations, this government is slow?

**4:30 p.m.**

We also asked that the government set up an approvals system with strict minimum standards to which certificates of approval must conform and that it develop the waybill system to include onsite disposal of hazardous waste, which might be up to 90 per cent of such waste. Out of all those recommendations, the government managed to implement one.

We have to ask why the government is so slow. Today in the Legislature we had the



shocking admission by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) that there is little co-ordination between his ministry and the Ministry of the Environment. My colleague the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) has brought the issue of our drinking water to this House over and over again, and she forced an emergency debate on the quality of our drinking water.

We were concerned about dioxins found in the drinking water. Now we find that drinking water is not the only problem; there is also a problem with meat grown in Ontario and with fresh fruit. Even though we know the dioxins in beef and fruit pose what we are told is an even greater problem than those found in the water, we have the admission by the Minister of the Agriculture and Food that he does not have an adequate testing program in place to find out the extent of the problem. The Liberal government was quite rightly critical of the environmental policies of the previous government, but when it comes to acting, we have the atrocious performance we had from the Minister of Agriculture and Food in the House today.

Since the Minister of Housing is still here, I want to speak about some tenant issues. I will not recycle all my private members' bills, as I am sure the minister has read them, or at least his staff are familiar with them; they must be, because they manage to borrow from them in the bills they introduce.

I want to talk about Bill 11. In 1984, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) when in opposition introduced a bill to stop demolitions in the city of Toronto. If it had been extended, as was my earlier bill in 1982, it could have stopped demolitions in other cities across this province. It has taken this Minister of Housing 10 months to bring in a bill to do exactly that. It is no different, although it is wider because it deals with a number of issues. The specific section on demolitions is very little different from the bill I introduced in 1982 and the bill his own leader, now the Premier, introduced in 1984. I asked the minister: "What about the people who are now facing the bulldozers at their doors? Will you introduce emergency legislation putting a ban on demolitions until you can amend Bill 11?" He said he would not do that.

This government has moved too slowly. It is moving slowly but surely on the accord. When one looks at what the government is doing, it seems to be afraid to act on anything other than the accord. It has introduced a budget that is a Conservative budget. It is introducing what is

New Democratic Party legislation, more or less, but very slowly. Perhaps it should be called the Xerox party; it does not do anything original.

It is afraid to upset the insurance companies. The Treasurer is smiling. If he provokes me, I will talk about the Province of Ontario Savings Office. It is afraid to deal with the insurance companies and the escalating insurance costs. It is afraid to deal, as the Treasurer's own father was so able to deal, in competition with the banks by expanding the role of the Province of Ontario Savings Office so that farmers, home owners with mortgages and small businessmen could get loans at a reasonable cost and so the government might have a planning tool to be able to stimulate economies in certain cities. It has failed to deal with any of those matters, other than the doctors, that deals with taking on the vested-interest groups.

There is little in this budget that is original. It takes its legislation, as I said, from the New Democrats. It takes its budget from the Conservatives. One would hope that at least some time in the next year or year and a half the Treasurer might bring in a budget that has some creativity, that does something about employment in a very constructive way and that is not afraid to move quickly and to take on some of the vested-interest groups it was so happy to take on in the opposition.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin):** Are there any questions or comments?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** Mr. Speaker, I know you asked for questions or comments, but I think I will take the opportunity in my statement in the budget debate to lend some comments to what has been said.

I know that all members know I am from Scarborough North, the largest constituency in Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It was also the largest majority win in Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** As the Treasurer reminds me, it was the largest win. What a strong mandate. I am proud of that. I say that for my constituents, because there were 31,000 people who came out to give me that mandate to come to this House today to represent them. In Scarborough North, there are 220,000 residents and about 120,000 eligible voters. As I said, there were 31,000 votes cast for the Liberal Party there. I think they were saying something. I think they were giving me a strong mandate to tell the House and to tell Ontario that they need a voice which represents their needs and concerns.



I say this not with any conceit at all. Although I have that strong mandate, and although I stand very confident and poised as if I were completely at home with things here, I am frightened and petrified at the awesomeness of this building and the great statesmen who sit around. They speak with such authority that at times, even when I am right, I stand up rather petrified. When I listen very carefully, I hear a lot of noise, but there is no substance.

**4:40 p.m.**

One of the problems is that sometimes when we have too much history behind us, we tend to look back more than forward. I think that is what happened to the party that held power previously. I am not here to criticize it or to say I feel that I am better than it is or that this Liberal Party is better than that party. I think if we as a government get complacent in any way, the people should then change for something better.

The previous government had its opportunity, and a good stretch of it, 42 years, to prove itself and to serve the community of Ontario. It did a very good job in a certain era of its reign, but it forgot. I say "forgot" because if one looks at Ontario today, 25 per cent of the people are functionally illiterate. This is a province that is rich in resources, a province the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has just declared has a buoyant economy, and yet 25 per cent of our people are functionally illiterate.

I heard my colleague opposite talk about housing. I hope he stays around. I would like him not to hit and run; I notice he is going. This is a problem in this House. There is a lot to be said and a lot to be listened to, but we say our piece and leave. It is sad because there is so much he could learn. I do not come to this House with a tremendous amount of history, but I come with a sensitivity to the many needs to be addressed that I have gathered over the years.

**Mr. Philip:** On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Since the minister seems to be so concerned about my leaving, I can tell him that I have a meeting with the Clerk, that I will be reading his response and that I have a very important presentation to make on behalf of all three parties before a committee tomorrow; that is what I am preparing.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order. That is not a point of privilege.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I accept the member's apology, but I want to tell him on his way out that it is not how the word is written; it is how it is said with passion. I feel it that way, and I hope he can

read it with that passion and emotion when he gets the time to read Hansard.

As I said, this province boasts a very rich and buoyant economy. To go back to where I was before I was interrupted, to the rate of functional illiteracy we have in this province, there are people in this province who are not able to decide whether something is a poisonous substance to drink or a medicine to take. There are people in this province who need a job but who cannot fill out an application form. They are willing and able, and they have the muscles and the will, but they are unable to fill out an application form. There are people in this province who need assistance through welfare but who sometimes are unable to come forward and sign the form. They stay back. They are forgotten people.

What does this have to do with the throne speech? Mr. Speaker, you have read it and many of the members here have read it. I have heard them come back with criticisms about the throne speech. What they fail to realize is that this is the first time in the little history I know that the government of the day has decided to address the problem of functional illiteracy that we face in Ontario.

It is a tremendous amount of progress to recognize it. The member said earlier that this Minister of Housing studies things to death and keeps on studying them. I remind him that we first have to recognize there is a problem, and not use the rhetoric and the trick questions I hear each day. Today we have television in the House, and some of the questions are just posturing so the constituents can hear them at night. There is no substance, no real compassion for the needy. There is no working together as 125 members in this House to wrestle with and address the problem.

Today was typical. The members heard about the disaster that is happening in the Winisk community. The comments I heard were rather appalling. I would have thought I would have heard things such as the honourable leader of the third party had said, that we should work together and assist those people in that community, because I know that today many of them are cold, wet and out of a home and need that help. They do not need liberalism, they do not need conservatism, they do not need new democraticism, socialism or however you put it; they do not need that. They need a home. They need love. They need attention.

That is what is happening, but we bring it to an academic debate; we sit here and debate it for an endless time. We can talk the talk, but we do not



walk the walk. The throne speech is a walking speech. It is an action speech. It talks about the actions we will take.

I am glad the Housing critic for the Conservative Party is here. Let us talk about some walking. Let us talk about some action the throne speech is taking in regard to housing. We are funding and will be building 6,700 nonprofit units in 1986. That is in comparison with 2,000 municipal nonprofit units funded in 1985. That is only one part of the program.

The critic over there stands up at times and asks me: "When are you going to build these? What are you doing about the shortage of housing in this province?" I almost thought the shortage had come about overnight. He was so convincing and so committed to resolving that problem: "When are you going to build them? There is a need." I heard the passion in his voice.

When I speak about history, if I had been here last year, perhaps I would not be so convinced about the emotion he generates, because then I would have known whether he had the same passion and emotion he is carrying on with today in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984. Is it the same? When I look back and realize that only 2,000 municipal nonprofit units were funded in the past, it tells me one has to think twice about whether he is really sincere.

I hear the critic of the third party talk about democracy. He says to me: "Bring in legislation now. Why are you dilly-dallying around?" He stands up and says, "It is frustrating to see the minister learn how legislation is made."

I would presume that if the New Democratic Party were in power, legislation would not be made in consultation; it would just be done right away. That party does not say the same thing about any strike actions we have here; it says we should leave it and the people will resolve it. But when we decide to bring in legislation and we use the democratic process of consultation, it says: "Cut that out. Just get to it and bring in laws without consultation."

**4:50 p.m.**

This brings me to the magic word "consultation." My government, the Liberal Party, said it was an open government. There is a part in the throne speech that is so profound. I do not find it profound; those on the other side find it profound. I will quote: "We must continue to advance the government's fundamental values of openness, accessibility, fairness, opportunity and the pursuit of excellence." They are saying it is profound. It is just basic common sense and honesty, because that is the way this government

and this party has always behaved. Therefore, it is not profound for us to say that. Consultation was the way in which I and my staff went about bringing about the assured housing policy in Ontario. As I remember, they all applauded on that side.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It was a great day.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** It was a great day to bring in an assured housing policy in December 1985.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** Now we want to see the reality.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** We feel we have the capabilities and the funds to give every individual in this province decent and affordable shelter. What a change. While we go on and do things naturally, on the other side they are rather in shock to see that we can do these things. At one stage, I thought they were thinking I was one of those who can part the Red Sea because I have this magic wand that brought tenants and landlords together. It was very easy to do.

The ease of it was just to ask and to participate, to say to the tenants, "We need a housing policy in this province that will reflect your concerns and needs," and to say to the landlords, developers and investors, "We need a housing policy in this province that will reflect your needs and concerns." That is what it was: a coming together of these people, because they have the resources and the intelligence. I respect and admire them tremendously for this.

I will share a little secret with you, Mr. Speaker. When one of the developers was asked to serve on this landlord and tenant advisory committee, he was called by members on the other side who said: "What are you trying to do? Why are you supporting this?" The individual said to me, "My response was: 'You were the ones who brought rent control here. They are trying to do something about a housing policy. Why are you trying to stop that?'"

He is a sensible man who is concerned about Ontario and every citizen here, although he is quite a rich man who does not need to spend all his time delving into dealing with the social issues and could say, "The government should deal with that." No, he is one of those Ontarians, and there are many of them around, who will come forth to deal with the social issues we have.

The tenants were crying in the wilderness a long time to be treated fairly. They need tenure to where they live. I have done no survey on this, but I guess that in this country we spend about 10 months of each year inside our houses. Imagine not having a place to live. The tenant and landlord advisory committee, which brought



forth those recommendations to me, is very historic. It is sad that we call it a historic event, because it is so natural.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about expectations—the expectations of a government to look after its people, whether they are rich or poor, lame or able, to be fair to all; an expectation of the people for fairness. One Tory member said to me that the Liberals are on a honeymoon. The only way I could describe that is to say that the Liberals are the type who would get married, maybe at church or at city hall, and go back to work in the afternoon.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Maybe late afternoon.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** Yes, late afternoon.

I could describe the Tory government as getting married in a church and going off for six months of honeymoon to Niagara Falls and leaving the rest for it to happen.

**Mr. Wildman:** You do not have any staying power.

**Mr. Gillies:** Six months in Niagara Falls.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** There is a limit to what we can take.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I am saying that while they are waiting for the honeymoon to be over, work and dedication to the people of this province is a honeymoon to us, so they will be saying constantly, “They are on a honeymoon.”

What a respectable man my leader, the Premier (Mr. Peterson), is. I gather too that some would say he is arrogant, a label they would like to put on us—

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That is a misnomer. We are totally humble.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I do not think they know this man very well, and I do not think they will take the time to know him.

**Mr. Gillies:** We know him too well.

**Mr. Foulds:** You are arrogant in your humility, unlike the Tories; they were humble in their arrogance.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I do not think they are talking about the leadership on the other side where we saw arrogance. I have seen this leader, this Premier, sit down in cabinet every Wednesday and say: “We must be doing more for the women, and we must be doing more for the visible minorities.”

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** And for the farmers.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** Of course, also the farmers.

I remember the first question I asked in this House of the then Tory leader, the member for

Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller). He was having problems appointing people from visible minorities to boards. As I recall—and I stand to be corrected—he said that it was difficult to find qualified people to fill those positions and that is why it took so long. The Premier opened the door and they came running in: qualified women, qualified visible minorities, Tories, Liberals and New Democrats. We opened the door and made but one request, and they came running in. There are many more. I am saying, and I speak on behalf of the Premier now, that if there are any competent people from visible minority groups or any women who want to be appointed, please give us a call; call any one of us.

Our policy is beyond calling for Conservatives or New Democrats to be appointed. The day Donald MacDonald was appointed, a man I respect and whose son I went to school with—I know Brian MacDonald very well—I was nauseated by the comment that was made. Let us not play politics about intelligence and sensitivity. I think it is the lowest way in which we can do that.

**5 p.m.**

This new minister has to take the time to learn how to conduct himself in this House. The culture is so disciplined, so intimidating that we have to show an openness in all respects. We are trying to indicate to the people that we are sincere and that they are all welcome here.

What a change we have seen since we took over the reins. I hope we will continue to see the province in the way it should be seen. Of course, I do not think any of us will be around in 42 years, when the Liberals will still be here, because I do not think there is any magic about the things we do.

Next week Bishop Tutu is coming to this House. It is a significant event. I am very proud to know I will be in the House and that Bishop Tutu will be addressing this House. It is obvious as I stand here that I am from the black community and of black extraction. I know the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) would look at me at times and say, “I did not know.”

My election to this House has brought about an awareness on the part of the people of Ontario, of young people, of all the visible minorities, of all the white Anglo-Saxons and of all the people of Ontario that what we are seeing today is the real Ontario.

People's expectations of me are at times very high. I do not know whether I will do well. I will do my best as I go about my duties. I will do my best if I have to reflect it in housing, if I have to reflect it by standing here and saying how I feel



about our great province, about bringing pride to all the people of Ontario.

There are a lot of resources here and a lot of intelligence. I know that one of the greatest creations of God is man. The same man who, with one stroke, can destroy a nation, can create and motivate thousands to do better for mankind.

There is so much I would like to say, but I want to say this: When I read the throne speech, I realized that a great change had come over Ontario. I realized that our people are sensitive. I am going to challenge the opposition; they must be good critics, a good opposition. They must oppose when they should and applaud when they should, even if the Liberal government has brought it forward.

I have looked at many of the housing policies that the previous government put into place, and quite a few were very good. Many are decayed and need the resurgence of a little more spirit in them. That is what we have done.

I could speak about the number of programs we have generated in the housing industry. I do not want to do that. I appeal to all members, those on my side and those on the opposite side, to be objective so that we will help this province to be the great province it can be and is.

I will be brief. An honourable member spoke about the Ontario Housing projects we have and how disgraceful they are. I am not one to compare and say that New York City is worse because it has jails in the basements of its housing projects. I do not want to compare them to Chicago, where there are mesh wires around the patios so that people do not throw bodies or bicycles over. I do not want to compare those.

Many things within the Ontario Housing Corp. need to be addressed. I am not the type to go in and change them immediately, as the New Democratic Party would say, without any consultation or without knowing what we are doing: "What are you waiting for, Minister?" If I am changing something, I want to know what I am changing it to. It should not be just for change's sake, as the NDP would indicate, but to know that we bring something in place that is better than what we have, not better than New York City or Chicago, but to improve on what we have.

Just this morning I addressed the Metro Toronto Housing Authority. It is very charged now to feel that things must improve. The people there told me this is the first time they have seen a Minister of Housing address them. Think about it. We manage 85,000 units. We are the second-largest landlord in North America; that is

what the Ontario Housing Corp. is. We have 33,000 of those units in Metropolitan Toronto. Those people have never seen the Minister of Housing in all the years they have been managing the housing authority. It is sad neglect. For the sake of the people, I hope the Liberal Party and this government will never become as complacent as was the previous Conservative government.

I am going right back to Bishop Tutu when I mention that. Bishop Tutu is coming here. Bishop Tutu will not be addressing South African issues, if we think for one moment that is the case. He is addressing where the world is going today and the sensitivity that all people have a place in this society, whether they are black, yellow, green, short, handicapped, rich or poor.

**Mr. South:** Even Conservatives.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** Of course, we will consider Conservatives. There are some very good Conservatives.

I ask the opposition to read the speech from the throne again with a different intent, with an intent of sincerity, with an understanding that it was not a partisan plot but a direction in which we are sensitive to all the needs of the people of Ontario. I know my friend the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon), my honourable critic, is very anxious not to criticize but to add to what I have said.

**5:10 p.m.**

**Mr. Gordon:** I understand I have two minutes to reply to the Minister of Housing, who spoke glowingly about how sensitive this new government is to people, how open it is and how it will do wonderful things in this province.

I have sat in this House for a number of days and listened to how people in northern Ontario are paying 10 or 12 cents more a litre for gasoline, and this government has done nothing. How does the minister explain that? How does he explain that the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) announced 10 months ago a \$100-million development fund for the north and nothing has been spent? He is running around spilling more aviation fuel than most people spill gasoline out of their cars when they fill up.

I would not talk too much about how much the government has done. The government has not even established a benchmark as yet. When it comes to the north, it has failed. In 10 months, it has done nothing. What is the government going to do about the layoffs in Sault Ste. Marie? It will probably set up another committee to examine it. The minister can talk all he wants about being sensitive to people's needs, being understanding



and all those glowing terms, but we have not seen anything yet.

Can the minister explain to me why the private sector has failed in the 10 months that he has been the minister to get out there and build some new housing? The only real housing that has been built so far has been in the nonprofit sector. One part of the industry has not caught fire yet.

When he starts talking about how sensitive and open he is to people's needs, let him remember we are not all fools on this side of the House. We can see through some of the claptrap we had to listen to.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I told the member I would not elaborate on our assured housing policy. I will address only his comments on the private sector, the Renterprise program. The member said they would not build the 5,000 units in the Renterprise program. So far, we have had 207 applicants in the private sector anxious to build. There are 4,321 projects about to be approved any time now.

The member said I was bragging. I decided not to tell him about all the good programs that are in place, the home-sharing programs and the Renterprise program. The private sector feels confident it can deal with a government that will be fair to them.

**Mr. Gillies:** I am pleased to speak on this budget, the second budget brought in by the present Treasurer, whom I commend for sitting in the House for these many hours, as is his habit, listening to the valuable contributions made by members on all sides of the House and I am sure incorporating these in his very quick and able mind into future policies that will be of benefit to the people of Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Correct. Perhaps the member should end his speech there.

**Mr. Gillies:** I suppose this may make the Treasurer a little nervous as the speech of the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) made me a little nervous last week. Compliments can be a dangerous thing in this chamber.

I say in passing, because I see the Minister of Housing is leaving after his very eloquent speech in which he expressed many worthy sentiments, that we join with him in the sentiments he expressed with regard to Bishop Tutu's impending visit, our concerns about universal human rights and so on. Sincerely, there were many worthy thoughts in that speech, and I enjoyed it.

With regard to the substance, however, and some of the policies the minister did mention, it was a speech almost prone to bring one to tears. I might have burst into tears if his speech had

addressed the reality rather than talking about what this government had done and what it would want us to believe. I would have then been more prone to break down emotionally, throw up my hands and say, "Good Lord, how lucky we are."

Unfortunately, the facts do not match the rhetoric. I happen to believe that rhetoric is probably what this government is best at. It has sold a bill of goods which is absolutely marvelous. Our friends in the press gallery love it; they eat it up, as do the people who are crowding in at this very moment to hear this speech, as the Treasurer points out to me.

This is a government which, if it specializes in anything after 10 months, specializes in communications. It specializes in leading people in the province who want beer and wine in corner stores to think they are going to get it when the government knows as well as the combined members of the opposition know that they are not going to get it.

It is a party which, during the election campaign of last year when the Peterson team was campaigning around the province, specialized in telling the people of Ontario that it was going to "put every young person in the province back to work." I am going to come back to that one.

It is a party that specialized in telling the people of Ontario during the election campaign that it would have a job creation program of some \$500 million, leading the citizens of this great province to assume it would be true to its word and introduce a job creation program of some \$500 million, which it has not done.

It is a government that told the province to expect the speedy introduction of denticare into the province and indicated it would be removing Ontario health insurance plan premiums as part of the funding of our health care system. It is a government that said it would exempt meals of under \$4 from tax. Again, I will return to that.

Anyone glued to his or her television set at this moment, munching on a quarter-pounder with cheese and drinking a diet Coke—which is my favourite lunch—and who paid more than \$2 for it, is wondering, "Good lord, Bob Nixon told me I would not have to pay tax on a meal of this sort, and I am sure I just paid tax on my quarter-pounder with cheese and my diet Coke."

It is a government that told the people of Ontario that there were going to be massive and innovative changes in our child care and in women's issues.

I so desperately want to believe all these things, the things that the Minister of Housing



told us in his most eloquent speech. But I have been disappointed by the failure of this government to tackle the most vital matter of public concern in this province—jobs—its miserable failure to come up with a meaningful job creation program.

**Mr. South:** Unemployment is 6.9 per cent.

**Mr. Gillies:** Let us talk about that first. The member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. South) interjects. He would have us believe that everything is just fine. I have not checked the unemployment rate in Frontenac-Addington lately, but I hope it is wonderful; I really do. I hope it is the lowest in the province. It is not that great in Brantford, in Sudbury or in Sault Ste. Marie. The member for Frontenac-Addington has nothing to be comfortable about as far as unemployment in this province is concerned. It is the number one issue; he should talk to his constituents.

The first budget of the Treasurer came and went, increasing taxes, increasing the deficit, doing a bit of tinkering here and there with youth employment. But we waited. Dare I say we waited for the government to keep the promise? Dare I say it? The Treasurer brought in his second budget document last week. We pored over it after waiting with bated breath. There is a lovely symbol here which I believe represents a piece of Ontario falling out. It looks a bit like a jigsaw puzzle with a few pieces missing, which is a worthy symbol of this government. But we waited.

Let us talk about youth employment funding, which during my all too brief tenure as minister—and I know my friend the member for Essex South will pounce on that—was approximately \$175 million. The fall budget came in, and the spending on youth employment under the new government was \$175 million. At the time the Treasurer said, “Yes, but in the next budget we are going to increase it by \$25 million.” The spring budget of the Liberal government came in with not a penny increase, not even an inflationary increase. Youth employment stayed at \$175 million.

**5:20 p.m.**

It is a mystery to me that the press-release writers, the gremlins in the back room of this government, have convinced an awful lot of people that it is otherwise, but for the purposes of this speech, I will deal in facts.

Interjections.

**Mr. Gillies:** I say to my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) that I am sure he is as appalled as I am that this government has not

increased its commitment to youth employment, but there it is.

We then look at women’s issues. We look for the commitment, and again the trendocrats, as my colleague the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) referred to them last week—

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It cannot be me. The member knows it is not me.

**Mr. Gillies:** Lord knows, the Treasurer, a man whose feet are planted firmly in the soil of this great province, is no trendocrat. I will bet that when the Treasurer sits around Earl’s Shell station on the weekend and tells the guys, “You know, we are doing an awful lot for women in our various policies,” they probably believe it.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** At Earl’s Shell, they are very concerned about that, as a matter of fact. The member may think they are not.

**Mr. Gillies:** They are? I know they are, and they are again taking the Treasurer at his word.

There is a lingering impression out there that through the initiative of this government there will be broad and sweeping moves in the area of pay equity, for example. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) brought in a pay equity bill, which I have described before and which I will describe again as parsimonious, mean-spirited and almost unnecessary.

The Minister of Labour brought a bill into this House to extend pay equity to 29,000 women in the immediate public service—not to any agencies funded by the province or to the municipalities, the hospitals, the universities or the colleges, but just the immediate public service. I wonder. Lord knows, I am not a legal counsel to this House, but when I looked at the minister’s bill, I was not even sure legislation was needed. I have a hunch the government could have done what it wants to do on such a small scale by regulation.

The Progressive Conservative Party is prepared to put on the line a major commitment to pay equity. I say to the Treasurer, when the Minister of Labour’s bill comes forward, this party will move amendments to extend pay equity into the broad public service: to the hospitals, the municipalities, the colleges, the universities and the boards of education. If this government believes in equality for women, then we are going to make it live up to that belief and that responsibility.

If my understanding is correct, I believe the members of the New Democratic Party feel the way we do and, like it or not, the members of the government are going to end up with a meaningful pay equity bill, not because they want it but because we want it. Again I say to the Treasurer,



it is the enormous gap between the sizzle and the steak that bothers us on this side of the House.

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** We left the sizzle behind. The steak is here—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Gillies:** I say to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) that when the day comes in this House that the combined opposition moves its amendments to broaden the pay equity bill, the minister, who really believes in these things, will want to stand up and vote with us. I know he will, and I look forward to that.

There is an interesting phenomenon with this government. I have already mentioned its capacity for public relations, for which I sincerely give it full marks. It is impressive. The way it is being done is most interesting.

Many years ago, the Treasurer will recall, I spent a brief period in the Office of the Premier as a junior researcher, and I got to know a lot of the people in that office. They hived quite a few of us in the opposition over in offices in the Whitney Block. I have no complaint about that. I love my office in the Whitney Block. It is very handy and very good office space. However, as I trundled back and forth through the tunnel under Queen's Park Crescent a few weeks ago, there were huge flats and absolute wheelbarrows of boxes and crates of office equipment flooding through the tunnel to the Whitney Block. Who did I meet? It was half of the Office of the Premier, all my old friends from the Premier's office.

"Hello, Pauline," I said. "Hello, Margaret. Where are you all going?" "We're moving, Phil, over into—you got it—the Whitney Block." I said: "Good Lord, that is funny. The correspondence section of the Premier's office is moving over to the Whitney Block?" "Yes, we are not really going to be under the Premier's office any more. There are some new arrangements coming in. We are not sure what our reporting is going to be." That is fine.

Now the couriers and many of the other functionaries who have been part of the Premier's office for many years have been hived off across the road. I said to them, "Who is moving into your offices on the second floor of the Legislative Building?" They did not want to talk about that much and I did not press it. Lord knows, I would never betray the confidence of a friend. I went and checked it out myself.

All this office space is being taken up by the new trendocrats that my colleague the member for York Mills spoke of. They are pouring in. My God, they come from Ottawa on City Express.

Every day another one gets off. They breed like rabbits. All these former Trudeau bureaucrats, all the ones who got hived out when the government changed in Ottawa and spent a bit of time running consulting firms, etc., have jobs now. It is absolutely marvellous. I now have found the Liberal job creation program; it is for any hack who ever got displaced in Ottawa. "Come on down to Queen's Park. There is a job for you here."

**Mr. Wildman:** That is because the Tory hacks have gone to Ottawa.

**Mr. Gillies:** Because the Tory hacks have gone to—no.

I look forward to the estimates of the Office of the Premier this year. They have shifted all these bodies around, and I guess that is where we are going to find it and nail it down. It is the Liberal job creation program, but does it help the laid-off steelworkers in Sault Ste. Marie and the laid-off farm equipment workers in Brantford, Chatham or Hamilton? Does it help these people? No, it does not. It helps anyone who has a closetful of red ties available.

The single biggest disappointment for me in the policies of this government and in the introduction of the budget of the Treasurer is its complete inability to wrap itself around the issue of jobs and the issue of an industrial strategy for this province.

The Treasurer will say to me, "We continued the community economic transformation agreements, the CETA program that your government introduced." The government did. We funded it at \$20 million a year. This government funds it at \$25 million over two years. There is a reduced commitment to CETA. They say: "We are looking at Sault Ste. Marie. We are looking at helping this and helping that." The Treasurer has to take the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) in hand. I know he did just that in Brantford on Friday. I will also return to that; I am getting quite a waiting list here. The Treasurer has to take some of these guys in hand and show them what to do.

There is a centralization of government going on in Ontario that is reminiscent of the Trudeau years in Ottawa. There are four ministers, including the Premier, running this government.

**Mr. Wildman:** Who is the fourth?

**5:30 p.m.**

**Mr. Gillies:** There is the Premier, the Treasurer, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), who is also known as minister of everything, and the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway),



who is the minister of all education. I find this centralization disturbing. It is not in the best traditions of the parliamentary system. We would benefit from a broad and real ministerial responsibility that I sense is lacking in this government.

The dashings around during question period are phenomenal. I do not intend to be mean-spirited, but I say to my friend the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Curling), whose speech I have so recently praised, what embarrassment is caused to a minister when his bill is yanked and it appears he has not been told about it.

The government House leader, with all his ability and his penchant for keeping six balls in the air at once, is not allowing his ministers to run their ministries. They are pulling things. The Premier's office, the Attorney General, the Treasurer and the minister of all education are juggling all the balls and are not letting the other guys do it.

The Minister of Education, I always thought, believed that members should be allowed to do their job around this place. I remember that in 1982 the current Minister of Education said in this House, "Any parliamentary assistant who is not allowed to answer questions in this House is not worth the powder to blow him to hell." The Minister of Education said that.

I am waiting for the Minister of Education to extend his pervasive influence within this government so parliamentary assistants can start answering questions in the House and so we can compare the position of the Minister of Health's parliamentary assistant on extra billing, for example, with that of the Minister of Health himself. Lord knows we have enough fun comparing the minister's position with the Premier's position and with the Attorney General's position.

When our friend the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward) told us many weeks ago that the extra billing crisis would be solved in six weeks, I took him at his word. I know that member is a man of his word. If he tells me extra billing is going to be licked in six weeks, I believe it; and when it is not, the members of the opposition should have the opportunity in this House to ask him about it. But the Minister of Education, who once believed these people should be able to answer questions, now apparently does not believe they should be able to answer these questions.

This government, with all its skill in public relations and communication, which I mentioned earlier, has a very fundamental problem in that it

seems unable to get its legislative package through the House. The two drug bills, Bills 54 and 55, are before committee. Then, in a flurry of confusion, in the face of two sets of opposition amendments that look remarkably similar, the drug bills are yanked out of committee while the minister figures out what to do with them.

I have already mentioned the housing bill. The Minister of Housing, with sincere good wishes, wants to put together a package that will benefit the people of this province who need affordable housing, and the government cannot quite get it together. Then suddenly the minister finds one day that the government House leader has yanked it off the Orders and Notices paper. They communicate, but thus far we have not seen the ability to deliver. On the fundamental issues I have spoken of—women's rights, housing and health care—they have been unable, after 10 months, to deliver.

My friend the Minister of Housing spoke of a brand-new day and a brand-new government. Fine. If he hears us refer on this side of the House to a honeymoon, what we are really talking about is that period of time during which the people of the province will give the government the benefit of the doubt because it is new. When a honeymoon runs out, it is because the government cannot use that excuse any more; it is when the government has been in the driver's seat long enough that the people expect results. When those results are not forthcoming, that is when the honeymoon is over and that is when the government gets into real problems.

I turn to the subject of capital projects for our colleges and universities.

**Mr. Mancini:** How would the member know what a honeymoon was like?

**Mr. Gillies:** I have one to look forward to one of these days.

**Mr. Mancini:** I hope we are all invited.

**Mr. Gillies:** I would invite the member for Essex South to many things, but not on my honeymoon.

The government has made much of its supposed commitment to colleges and universities. Again, there is a failure to deliver. I quote my leader: "The Liberal government will actually provide less for capital projects in Ontario universities and colleges in 1986-87 than these post-secondary institutions received in 1984-85." The faculty associations are not happy. When the universities compare the programs that were put before them in the past with what they are getting under this budget, they will not be happy.



Child care: The budget held up expectations, as this government has consistently held up expectations, of improvements to areas of concern to women. The increase, if any, to child care in this budget is absolutely minuscule. The budget allocates \$26 million this year for the 10,000 subsidized spaces that were promised in the last budget and that are not yet created. One subsidized day care space costs the province an average of \$3,200 per year. The day care funding announced in this budget will not even cover the commitment that was made last October. Then there is \$6 million for capital. What is \$6 million going to do in this day and age with building costs being what they are? We need a meaningful commitment to child care in this province.

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** That is \$6 million more than was in the Tories' last budget for capital.

**Mr. Gillies:** Where the Minister of Community and Social Services runs into trouble is when he creates the expectations and does not deliver. I believe that is going to be increasingly the problem of this Liberal government.

If there is one thing I hear more about than any other issue from my constituents these days it is their frustration and being upset on the whole question of fuel pricing. We would have expected that this government, with all its high-flown rhetoric about making things better for ordinary people, would have tried to give the little guy a break on his gasoline at the pump.

This party offered the government a way to do that. We have said it before in this House and I say it again. If the amendment that this party moved to the Treasurer's budget bill from his last budget had been passed, if the provincial tax had been allowed to drop with the reduction in the cost of fuel to the suppliers, people would be paying three to four cents a litre less at the pump than they are now. It upsets and frustrates the members of the official opposition that the Liberals and the New Democrats combined to defeat that amendment because they had no faith and no belief that fuel prices were going to drop. Well, they have dropped.

It is not too late. The government could move an amendment now in this series of budget bills to give those people a break on the running costs of their cars. The government can still do it. I say this not in the spirit of partisan one-upmanship, but in the spirit of co-operation that the Minister of Housing spoke to earlier. I urge the government to move an amendment to lower the provincial taxation on fuel at the pump. The government can give them a break. We will

support it, and I imagine the third party will support it. The government can still do it.

The last area I would like to talk about in this budget debate is the whole question of the province's finances. This year the Treasurer found himself in an enviable position because of the upturn in the economy. I believe the sound administration and the groundwork that was laid over the years by the Progressive Conservative governments in the past allowed this government to benefit this year. I have no problem with that; I am pleased about it. We are all delighted that things are going a bit better, that more of our people are working in this province and that there is more hope for our workers and more dynamism in our economy than we have seen in the recent past.

Why did the Treasurer not take advantage of this improved economy to take meaningful steps in the direction of reducing the provincial deficit to relieve the taxpayers of the province from part of the burden of government debt? When revenue is expected to grow by more than eight per cent this year, why did the Treasurer project his expenditure growth at 7.4 per cent at a time when the inflation rate is forecast to be 3.8 per cent? In other words, this government is going to take in more revenue than it is going to spend, and it is not applying enough of that difference, as far as we in the official opposition are concerned, to reducing the deficit.

**5:40 p.m.**

The Treasurer increased the deficit by \$500 million in his last budget, and he reduces it by \$590 million in this budget; the net difference after those two changes is negligible. He could have used revenues he is going to get this year because of the upturn in the economy. He could easily have reduced the provincial deficit this year by \$700 million to \$1 billion.

Why not? In the last budget brought into this House by my leader, the former Treasurer, he reduced the deficit by \$1 billion and he did it without raising taxes. I do not believe that is beyond the capability of our current Treasurer. I spoke earlier of my regard for his ability. He could have done it; he should have done it, and I believe it is most unfortunate that this government did not move in that direction. He can maintain and improve services while taking advantage of an economic boom to reduce the deficit meaningfully. The Treasurer has been here much longer than I, and he knows that when times are tough or, heaven forbid, if there is another downturn in the economy, he will not be able to do it. He has to do it when times are good.



The times are good enough now that he could have done it.

In conclusion, this budget is not particularly punitive; I recognize that. It is not one that is going to lead to massive demonstrations in the streets. It is not a budget that introduced new taxes.

It is not a budget that was punitive so much as it was a budget of missed opportunity. It is a budget that missed the opportunity to introduce meaningful job creation programs for our youth and for our older laid-off workers. It is a budget that missed the opportunity to take meaningful steps to create affordable housing for people in this province; a budget that missed the opportunity to have meaningful industrial adjustment and industrial strategy programs for our hard-hit communities, such as Sault Ste. Marie; a budget that missed the opportunity to take meaningful steps on women's issues and to bring in a broad and meaningful program of pay equity, and finally, a budget that missed the opportunity to take a meaningful step to reduce the burden of public debt on the taxpayers of this province.

That is how I will remember this budget: as the budget that did not do a number of things that had to be done. It may not be apparent in the current climate, but over the long haul, if the Treasurer's government is not willing or able to take these steps, the people will turn to another government that is.

**Mr. Harris:** I have a couple of questions or comments for the member for Brantford. I was very intrigued with the member's comments about missed opportunities. He talked about the great opportunity to reduce the deficit and, as I gather from his comments, an irresponsibility in spending that this budget seems to represent in the true Trudeau-MacEachen Liberal style of government.

I ask the member for Brantford whether he would comment on some of those missed opportunities. As I went through the budget document, there seemed to be a holus-bolus increase in spending, somewhere around 7.6 per cent, or double the rate of inflation, as I have examined it. I ask the member for Brantford to comment on how he feels about spending going up holus-bolus, at double the rate of inflation, during a time when these missed opportunities are here.

I comment on 1,000 new civil servants being added in the province. It was only last fall that the Treasurer increased taxes to such a burdensome level, some of them temporary surtaxes. Given the increased economic activity—perhaps the

member for Brantford can comment—surely this was the time to ease the tax burden. There are those 1,000 civil servants.

It seems to be the Liberal way that when there is more money, they never think of putting some away for a rainy day. I come back to something I stated last fall. What happened to the real member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), the member who cared about people and about Ontario?

**Mr. McClellan:** I was interested in something the member for Brantford said. I did not hear all of his speech in the House, but I was listening on the squawk box—not that his speech was squawky. He commented that there has been a failure to pass legislation. I do not disagree with that. We have an opportunity to pass Bill 94, the act to end extra billing. Why did the Conservative Party vote with the Liberal Party to postpone clause-by-clause discussion of Bill 94 in committee of the whole House? Perhaps the member for Brantford will clarify that. Why does the Conservative Party appear determined to delay, procrastinate and filibuster Bill 94 in committee of the whole when it gets back into the House?

I would like to have a statement from the member for Brantford as to whether the Conservative Party is willing to have the necessary debate on Bill 94 when the bill is reported out of committee. I am sure the Conservatives will vote to report the bill out of committee and will not delay or frustrate the desire of the people of Ontario to have this bill passed, ending extra billing once and for all.

I am sure the member for Brantford will want to explain to us the position of the Conservative Party on Bill 94 when it is in committee and when it gets to committee of the whole House and whether the Conservative Party is willing to pass the bill expeditiously, to go with the flow of the vote and not frustrate the legislation or unnecessarily delay its passage.

**Mr. South:** I enjoyed very much the speech by the member for Brantford, but I wonder why the opposition always sticks to part of the equation. They are going to reduce the gasoline tax and they are going to pay more money to pay off the deficit. Where is the money going to come from? Where are they going to get the increased revenue? What programs are they going to cut? They cannot have it both ways. It is great to say, "We want this and we want that." Are they going to increase taxes and cut back programs? Where is the \$700,000 they are going to pay off on the deficit going to come from?



5:50 p.m.

**Mr. Swart:** I cannot resist the opportunity to rise and pose a question or two to the member for Brantford, particularly on statements with regard to the gasoline tax and the fact that it would be two, three or four cents lower if we had the ad valorem tax we had before.

I have not heard the member comment on whether he believes the oil companies are charging more for gasoline than they should be, and I have not heard him comment on the fact that people in northern Ontario are paying so much more for gasoline. He will know that the heads of BP and Shell have said the price of gasoline could be substantially lower than it is. They have admitted that.

If that is the case, does he believe the government should use its constitutional power to implement legislation so the government can intervene and lower the price of gasoline to where it should be in relation to the price of crude oil? I know he will want to get up to speak on this issue, reply to this question and say what his party's views are on this matter.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin):** The member for Brantford.

**Mr. Gillies:** What a thoroughly thrilling debate. I have never had so much—

**The Acting Speaker:** Order. I made a mistake; I am sorry. The member for Essex South.

**Mr. Mancini:** I want to say to the honourable member for Brantford that while we found his speech entertaining, it was without a lot of facts. The comments he made on the lack of initiatives on behalf of this government are absolutely untrue. All the member has to do is take a few moments and—

**Mr. Cureatz:** Is the member for Essex South calling him a liar?

**Mr. Mancini:** No. I would never do that. He should take a few moments to review some of the initiatives this government has been able to get approved through the Legislature.

My other comment to the member is that I do not think he will get very far criticizing one of our most esteemed members of the Legislature here in this House. I do not think he is going to go very far criticizing the Treasurer.

**Mr. Gillies:** I see I have only two minutes to reply to all this, but I will do my best. I say first to my friend the member for Essex South that I would be the last to criticize my good friend the Treasurer, a man for whom I have the greatest esteem, a friend and a neighbour. That is one of

the reasons I am so disappointed in this budget; it really was not worthy of him.

I share the honourable member's affection for the man, and I share his frustration at being one of those parliamentary assistants who the Minister of Education of some years ago called "not worthy of the powder to blow them to hell." I think the member for Essex South should be in a position to answer questions in this House. He has a tremendous contribution to make.

The member for Frontenac-Addington asked me where we would get the money to reduce the gasoline tax. We would get it through increased revenues and from the approximately \$300 million that is unaccounted for in this budget which we in this party believe the government is holding for election goodies.

I say to the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), who asked me about Bill 94, the extra billing bill, our party is opposed to this legislation and will oppose it strenuously, but I assure him there will not be any untoward delay or filibuster regarding that bill such as the filibuster the NDP had about Bill 141. We would not do that.

The member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) asked whether I believe the oil companies are charging too much for gasoline. Yes, I do. Do I believe they are charging far too much in the north? Yes, I do. Should the government intervene? If we had a government that really cared about it, I am sure it would, but the government is there because the NDP put it there, and I am sure the NDP finds that very frustrating.

Finally, to my friend the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), I take all of what he is saying as, "Is this a budget of lost opportunities?" Yes, this is a budget of lost opportunities.

**Mr. South:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to clarify my statement. It was \$700 million, not \$700,000.

**Mr. Breaugh:** As we go through the open stages of this session with a speech from the throne and a budget and while we have not quite gotten into our full legislative load, it is interesting that people are settling into their different roles. One of things I find most amazing is the born-again Tories; people who raised gasoline taxes consistently year after year and got it down to such a fine art that the raises came about automatically. They discovered the ad valorem tax so they did not have to bother with a law any more or the inconvenience of parliamentary debate. They just socked it to the consumer automatically.



It is quite phenomenal to sit in the chamber and listen to the debate on the throne speech, where we find how wonderfully revived they are in opposition; how a political party that for a decade resisted strongly and passionately the idea of equal pay for work of equal value, the moment it is in the opposition, is transformed into an advocate of that.

If we ever had any doubts about the accord and about what might happen if the Tories were not the government in Ontario, we must all go to sleep each night now feeling that this has been a good exercise for everyone involved. In opposition, the Tories have found a social conscience; in opposition, they have summoned up the courage to do all those things they had resisted over the years. When we talk about child care facilities, they are born again; when we talk about gasoline tax, they are born again; when we talk about helping the north, they are born again. It surely has been a most positive experience.

Let me turn now to this budget. I report to the Treasurer that we have had an opportunity—all of us, I am sure—to do what I did: go back home and listen in the pool halls, in the legions, on the streets, in the shopping centres and in the rinks to what people have had to say. I report to the Treasurer that the word on the street in Oshawa is that this is all right. That may not sound like much of a compliment, but in Oshawa that is as good as it gets. It does not get any better than that. If you are in politics in Oshawa, you know you will not get praised to the hilt. If people say, “It is all right,” they mean you are doing your job.

It is strange that this is the attitude. For example, I have tried to convince people there actually is a provincial income tax. Most people are not aware of that, and most of them do not believe me when I tell them, “Yes, you pay provincial income tax.” They miss it on the form somehow.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I tried that for years too. I have given up.

**Mr. Breagh:** That is right. It was so well hidden by the previous government, done with such great skill, that it is an uphill struggle to convince them that about half of what they pay in income tax goes to Ontario. They firmly believe it all goes to Ottawa.

There is something else I found strange. In all of this budget there is not a great deal that did very much for anybody. In fact, if one gets right down to it, what is good about this budget is that the Treasurer has promised he will not beat you quite as much any more. People out there are

saying, “God, it feels so good that he has stopped, that this is okay.” Maybe it is the mindset of Ontarians. They are used to abuse. They are used to being taxed every time they turn around. They pay tax when they buy chocolate bars, they pay tax when they buy gasoline, they pay tax when they go to a show. Every time they move, someone collects a tax from them, and they seem to be well accustomed to it.

One of the things that is obvious with this budget—because it is not exactly a sensational piece of work here—is that the Treasurer will never be accused of being overly influenced by the London School of Economics. This is not Keynesianism or Galbraithianism or any of that. This is straight Earl’s Shell service right here on paper, and I hope the Treasurer paid Earl and the boys a good consulting contract, because their stamp is clearly on this budget. We all have an Earl’s Shell service where we consult with those who are wise in our community, and it is good for us.

However, it is also a very political document. It is quite good at that, and I want to pay some compliments here. I am sure that at some point just prior to the session, the Premier and the Treasurer sat down and had a little chat. The Premier said something like this to the Treasurer: “Robert, we had a little kerfuffle in the fall over your gasoline tax. Do not mess with that any more. Just leave well enough alone. Do not forget anybody, but do not do anything to anybody. In particular, do not do anything for anybody. Make this a budget that will be hard to hate. Make sure there are no lumps on the outside that can be chopped off.”

He succeeded at doing that. One has to struggle to work up a hate for this budget. It does not tax anybody any more. I imagine the party to my extreme right over here will manage to vote against the budget, but it will have some difficulty because most of what this Treasurer has put in place in this budget came out of previous Treasurers’ budgets. We have to remember that.

**6 p.m.**

If he did not take away the Ontario health insurance plan premiums totally, we can curse him gently, but we will also have to remind people where the OHIP premiums came from before. I remember Darcy McKeough’s famous words: “The OHIP premium is the best kind of tax. Nobody knows it is a tax, and it is already in place.” It is not identifiable as a tax measure.

In reviewing the comments around the budget, I noticed part of what Eric Dowd, one of our



senior reporters here, had to say was that this is very much something from what he refers to as "the Teflon-coated Premier." That is not a bad tag to stick on the Premier these days, because there is not much else sticking to him. It is also true, as Eric pointed out in his column, that this government made its first move on social issues. It has not succeeded at getting very many of those things translated into law yet, but an avalanche of initiatives was taken and now this government is making its move towards the business side of the ledger. It is making a move to look fiscally responsible in this budget. I have never felt so fiscally responsible in my entire life as I do now.

The moves are there. One is left with the political argument that the deficit was not reduced enough but it was reduced slightly. That is the point. One could argue that not enough people were brought in under the exclusions for OHIP, but some were. Not enough people, low-income earners in particular, were excluded, but some were brought in. Moves were made, very astute political moves, that make this budget as a package work to protect this government. This is not likely to be the budget around which a government would fall, even if there were not an accord, which would also help it a little bit.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Even if anybody wanted an election.

**Mr. Breagh:** This is a government that is very sensitive to that. Where it ran into little problems in its first run-through, its mini-budget in the fall, it avoided those with this budget. There is a great amount of thoroughness, a lot of detailed thought in this budget. In the words of my friends in Oshawa, the budget is all right. It does not help a lot of folks. It does not show a lot of great initiatives, and there was the opportunity to do that, but the Premier and, in particular this time around, the Treasurer, chose not to exercise those options. It is a safe, reasonable document and I believe that in the long run it will not make him a distinguished Treasurer, but it will keep him as Treasurer for a little while longer.

Let me move to some things in the budget that intrigued me. They are a little new and a little different. First, as part of the budget package, the Treasurer announced a couple of different moves. One we have seen before, but I hope it is going to be carried out a little more effectively. As part of his budget, the Treasurer announced that the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) will now make regular reports to the House on the results of her review of the effectiveness and efficiency of government activities. Let me say amen. It is overdue.

Governments around here for a long time have been reviewing how efficiently they operate. There is a simple answer to that: not very efficiently at all.

The other thing about it is that every time they have made a move to cut costs, the move has been clearly a paper move. I happen to have a constituency office across the road from the Treasury building in Oshawa.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The revenue building.

**Mr. Breagh:** The revenue building; sorry. For some time I have been aware that as a regular occurrence there whole departments have had their budgets cut. People come across the street to me and say, "What am I going to do? I am out of a job. But they told me if I would only shut my mouth I will not be out of a job. Next week somebody will find another slot for me, either in this ministry or in another one."

We are aware that the previous government developed a whole set of classifications for employees: temporary permanent; part-time temporary; temporary part-time. Whole mobs of folks who are not considered to be civil servants are now out there working in the civil service because somebody thought up new classifications for them and they do not appear as civil servants.

The previous government led us on a merry chase saying that it had actually reduced the number of civil servants in Ontario. We followed them around the block to find out that very often the same person was working at the same desk doing almost exactly the same job the week after his job had been done away with. They reappeared as contract employees or as part-time employees.

Members of all parties now are going through the hoops explaining to people why in some instances it might be better to be a part-time employee than a permanent employee; why our psychiatric hospitals are staffed with a lot of part-time employees who do not get benefits and they are working right beside part-time employees who do get benefits. It is difficult to explain that to them because from the point of view of management and the provision of services, it makes no sense at all. From the government's point of view of becoming leaner and meaner and having fewer people on the books officially working for the Ontario government, it makes a lot of sense.

As the minister reports to the House, I ask that we have opportunities to take a look at whether a cost saving actually turns out to be a cost saving and whether it is a sensible thing to do. I am



afraid that much of what I have seen over the past few years that was touted as being more efficient turned out to be a simple change in accounting practices. No money was saved. If anything, it put somebody's job at risk or it lessened the job security of somebody who was a very useful person in the civil service.

That whole exercise has to be carried on with a vengeance. I know Management Board of the previous cabinet took a run at this. A number of people have been aware that governments sometimes have some problems in delivering service. The difficulty I see is that very often the provision of service is the last thing on the government's mind. When I say the "government" here, I mean it in the broadest sense.

I wish I could say that I believe even this Treasurer, whom I have known for some time and have a lot of respect for, really knew what every civil servant in the Ministry of Revenue does, but he does not and he cannot. That is not possible; so we depend on others who manage the system here.

I am afraid what has happened over the years is that we have created a bit of a monster. We do not quite have the grasp on the provision of services that we want. What angers me most of all about this is that very often a government will say: "That is something we should do. Clearly, we ought to provide more child care spaces, but we simply cannot afford to do that. The reason we cannot afford to do that is we cannot provide the spaces efficiently."

Oddly enough, in my community, for example, we have not built an additional day care facility in about a decade. We have had the vast expansion of child care facilities in the private sector. We do not have much of a grasp; we assume the care given in those facilities is good. We have civil servants writing rules about how to provide child care. We have others writing new rules about what a child care facility has to look like.

We have people who are enforcing building codes, fire codes and every other code that one can imagine, some of which leads me to believe we are expending a lot of energy and money regulating something that does not need it. I have had an opportunity to go through some of the regulations that did not make any sense to me or to the child care providers. The end result is that it limits our ability as a Legislature. It limits the government's ability as a government to provide services.

We all have stories or our own little anecdotes about how governments provide services. Here is

my favourite. I wanted a plug moved in an office I had. The next day—and it takes the next day before the process even starts—I was introduced to a building engineer. I said: "I do not need an engineer. I want somebody to move a plug." The following day, I was introduced to an architect. I said: "I do not need an architect. I want an electrician to move a plug." The third day, a guy came in with a set of plans already drawn up about how they would have to remove one wall and reinforce the floor to put in a plug.

After about the second week of all this, I said, "Can anybody get me an extension cord?" They said, "We do not do that." I asked the logical question, "Why do you not do that?" It turned out there was no real reason they did not do that; it is just that governments do not function that way. First, they want to redesign the whole building and then they will provide some sort of service.

The Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet sure has her work cut out for her, because there is a mindset on how government operates that will be terribly difficult to take apart. I want to put the case that I believe it needs to be done; it needs to be done with some compassion. The purpose of the exercise, in my view, should not be to be necessarily leaner and meaner. It ought to be simply to produce efficiency so that better services can be provided. That is a distinction not many governments seem to have the ability to make. They know how to cut departments, stop services and prevent services from being provided, but they have not yet learned the trick of how to provide better and more efficient services to people. That ought to be the bottom line. That should be what it is all about.

**6:10 p.m.**

I want to point out a couple of other examples that I think are important.

Pension plans in the private sector and in the public sector are difficult to examine. I am pleased the Treasury staff is going to review that. I am somewhat concerned that we gather up large amounts of money in public and private pension plans and do not deliver much in the way of a service to the people who are paying into the plans. I am aware that a number of people in my municipality and across Ontario, who have contributed to government-sponsored public pension plans over the years, are not going to have the pensions they deserve at the end of their years of service. That is a problem. There is a difficulty with all of this.

We have had an argument during question period as to whether private pension plans are



being properly looked after. I have had plants close in my riding. Workers in the plants, some of them management people, came to me and said: "Here is my private pension plan. I contributed to this plan and I thought the thing was locked up and put away and no one could take it." They subsequently found out that management can and has taken money out of private plans and gone elsewhere with it. They have closed the plant and taken the money out of the pension plan. The regulatory agencies say it is legal. They do not often cast moral judgements on this, but they say it is legal. I am going to make the argument that it should not be.

When people invest money in a pension plan, it ought to be there and it ought to be sacred. Some smart person in management should not be able to get a good lawyer, go off to a regulatory agency, dip into a private or public pension plan and take the money elsewhere. That is still happening. Whether or not it is legal is a moot point as far as I am concerned. I believe it is immoral to do it. If they have good lawyers, more credit to them, but the obligation then falls on the government actually to do something about it. So far, it has not done it.

Let me move to a couple of other things that are of concern to me.

In this budget there are a number of things that I guess one would classify as cost-saving techniques. I want to give a couple of examples of the type of thing we ought to do more of.

It has always bothered me immensely that if someone commits a crime, we think absolutely nothing, in the whole judicial process, of spending literally thousands of dollars to prosecute somebody. At the end of the process, we will spend thousands more to incarcerate that person in jail. We never take the time to ask, "Is there anything we can do that would stop people getting themselves into hot water?" Governments ought to do a lot more of that. They ought to do more educating and more crime prevention in schools, in the work place, in the marketplace and wherever they can to see that fewer people commit crimes.

I know the Ontario Provincial Police has some programs such as this, but they are almost an afterthought, almost public relations. In a number of areas we wait until someone breaks the law. At that point, there is no such thing as expense; it is "Hang the expense" at that point. The whole court system kicks in; the whole judicial system kicks in; all the detention methods kick in. I want the government to turn slightly and say that prevention ought to be a

major part of it when we are talking about problems with crime.

One of the examples we have in here is that there now will be some adjustment to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in the way it can allocate settlements. I welcome that, but I think this is probably a good example of what we have been doing wrong. This is a case where we will spend inordinate amounts of money in some instances on the court process and on jailing people. Then we turn to the victims of crime and say: "Here is a couple of hundred bucks. You should be happy with that." That is all they could get. In here, there is the recognition I am looking for, but not a major recognition.

As part of the government's move to try to become a little more efficient, one thing it might do is to try a preventive approach. In the case of the environment, for example, if there is a major environmental spill, all hell breaks loose now. We measure, test and clean up; we do all that. Would we not be better off to make sure the spill never occurred? Would that not be a better way to spend public money? In almost every area of endeavour, we can identify ways in which we could prevent the event from happening, whether it is in the criminal courts, the environment or wherever. I encourage the government to take those initiatives.

I want to move to something I mentioned a little bit the other day in the debate on the throne speech. I am becoming very agitated over a trend that I see developing in this country and elsewhere of government courting and subsidizing industry. Some would call this a kind of corporate socialism. Maybe I am the wrong person to pursue this argument, but I am going to pursue it anyway.

It was not very long ago that the government in Ontario moved to say to municipalities: "You cannot be out there in the marketplace trying to outbid one another. You cannot be offering incentives to industry. You cannot give them free land; you cannot dispense with property taxes for 10 years; you cannot give them a grant of half a million dollars."

The government of Ontario said, and rightly, that no one wins that game. The only people who win there are the industries. The industries do not necessarily want these grants, but if they are going, they will take them. It would be dumb not to do so.

I find this government doing exactly the same thing. I want to make an argument here that this is a North American phenomenon that is certainly spreading, and here is another area in which the



government has to stop and analyse what it is doing.

The example that comes to mind is the Toyota plant that has gone into a different part of central Ontario. There was a case where the government said, "This is great stuff." It is, in one sense: New jobs will be generated in an area of the province that needs some job initiatives.

The government said at the time that there would be no cost to the local municipalities. It turns out that there is quite a substantial cost to the local municipalities. According to newspaper stories, whereas the estimate was that this was a \$400-million Toyota development that was not supposed to cost Cambridge anything, they are still adding up how much it is going to cost the city because, as events have turned out, Cambridge is into building roads and sewers and opening up adjacent land because the Toyota deal is the key that unlocks some land that happens to be owned by the province in that area.

The cost to the taxpayers, according one press report I have here, is going to turn out to be something like \$74,000 per job. That is getting a little expensive. I know the government of Ontario is competing with American jurisdictions where this is the exact status quo. You cannot go through any Sunbelt state where they are not heavily into subsidizing foreign corporations, and in particular the foreign auto makers, to come and build cars in the United States.

It is weird that this would come out of the US, which is the bastion of free enterprise. One would think that in the American political system, to suggest that the taxpayers should subsidize the private sector would be seen as almost morally corrupt, that this would be quite wrong. Yet in all the states—in Kentucky, in Ohio and in California—this is the kind of job offer that is there.

The question I want governments to ask themselves is, what kind of role do the grants play? Do they really make a difference in whether a plant such as Toyota's comes to Ontario? I want to make an argument today that I am not convinced for a minute that they do.

I understand why any corporation would come knocking on the door of the Treasurer and ask, "Have you got a few million for me?" That is quite natural. However, it has also been my experience that when they make the business decision to locate a plant in Ontario, it is locked up and put away and there is nothing you are going to do that will change their minds at that point.

There are very few who actually ask for this money. There are very few who would list it at the top of their personal criteria for site selection. There are a lot of things an industry wants when it moves a new plant into production. It does not have at the top of its list a handout from the government.

I know the tendency to give them some money is there because somebody else is offering them money. However, I would also point out that there are hard-nosed business reasons for these investments, and they do not turn on how much money they can milk out of a government. When we encourage this kind of plant, let us look at all sides of the ledger, and there are a number of sides.

**6:20 p.m.**

To put a plant like the Toyota plant into Cambridge is fine. To say we are doing so without adding additional costs to municipalities is silly. We should all know that. With the amount of grant money given by the government in skills training programs and in a variety of means, of tax incentives and providing them with lands and services, we should at least be aware that this is costing the taxpayers money. Then we should assess whether it really makes a difference. Is it a critical difference that makes them change their minds and come here instead of building in Quebec or the Maritimes?

I put to the members that any auto producer in the world is very likely to wind up in Ontario for the simple reason that it can build the cars here in Ontario and get them south into the US, where the marketplace is. That is the biggest single point for auto makers coming to Canada. They are responding to the government of Canada, it is true, and its request that they build some production facilities here, but I believe most of them, particularly the Japanese auto makers, are looking at an American market and the advantages that are there under the auto pact itself. They want that access point.

I remind the government that with or without its government grants and its subsidization of the private sector here, these people have an ability to come into this province and put together a vehicle at a substantially reduced price. The difference right now very simply is the dramatic difference in the Canadian dollar versus the American dollar.

They can come into a Canadian production facility and pay the United Auto Workers wages, which are pretty substantial—they are not cheap, but they can pay a good dollar here to a Canadian auto worker—and use an exchange rate that gives



them a tremendous cost advantage when they move into an American market.

That is probably the biggest single critical factor in their decision. We give them cheap labour—not dirt-cheap but cheap labour. We give them good transportation facilities. We provide them with excellent services and an ability to start up a plant. We are assisting them with technology.

Having done all those things, I do not believe we need to give them free land or a grant. I would like the members of the government to take a look at that process and have some hard and fast notions in their minds before they continue with that.

Let me mention a couple of other areas where I think the government has not quite done all it could. I start by saying that I know this one is not easy. In a number of areas of Ontario, some schools are lying empty and some schools are overcrowded. For the most part, the separate school system has a big problem with portables. I have whole schools that are portables. We have examples of that here in Toronto. We have other public schools that are lying vacant for the most part.

The logical thing from anybody's point of view is that one school board ought to talk to the other school board and come up with some type of lease arrangement. This is easy to say but not easy to do. I know that as someone who tried to match needs in my municipality while on city council. We needed to develop a sports facility. We had the money to build the facility, but we did not have the money to buy the land. We approached our local community college, Durham College, and said: "You have a field and you do not have the money to put up facilities there. We have the money for the facilities; you have the property. Let us see what we can do."

I had assumed after my committee at the council made this decision and met with Durham College that all our civil servants would go around, work out the details and come back with planning reports and things such as that. About six months later, I asked what had happened to that concept. The staff on both sides said: "We just could not make it work. It was not possible." It was my first introduction to competing interests.

There are people working for us who have a lot of things on their minds and at the bottom of that list may well be a simple idea such as sharing. They do not want to and they do not need to. They are giving up their own turf, so to speak, so it is difficult to make it happen. I know this

problem persists, and I want this government to say to municipalities, to school boards and to itself, "This may be a little tough, and it may not be the way a bureaucracy has always worked, but we cannot continue to build duplicate facilities, often across the road from one another, for ever and a day."

I am reminded that in many communities around Ontario, I have seen hospitals across the street from one another and they might just as well be thousands of miles apart. They never talk to one another; they do not want to and they will not. I have been to a lot of communities.

In my own, I have two boards of education. One is on the south side of Rossland Road with a very fine education centre, and one is on the north side of Rossland Road with an equally fine education centre. If anyone suggested that one education centre would service my community, they would all go nuts. It is beyond their realm of comprehension. They do not want to do it. They give eight million good reasons why they cannot do it; so it never happens.

I am going to make the argument that the day of that kind of duplication is going quickly. We should do something that facilitates it, whether it is with school boards, municipalities or even ministries. Many of us have had the joy of trying to work with two different ministries on a project and it is not easy. They want their own turf. They want to do it their own way. They want to assume the responsibility for the budget. They want to have the employees under their jurisdiction. I do not think we can do this much more.

I know this is an old idea, but it has not taken hold in this province. I am begging the government to take some initiatives in this regard. I believe strongly that one of the reasons we cannot do a number of things is that it is not merely a matter of doing it once; it is also a matter of doing it twice and three times, depending on how many ministries or levels of government there are.

I have been intrigued by a number of things that have come across my desk in the past little while. I was intrigued to know that a study had been done by Woods Gordon for the Podiatric Medical Association. I did not know that last year podiatrists saved the Ministry of Health \$13 million. I was taken aback even more to know that last year \$8.7 million was saved on bunion operations. That is a lot of money. Hammer-toe corrections saved \$1.6 million. Toe nail removers saved \$2.6 million. It goes back to who runs the show and whose ox is gored.

I am reminded on a daily basis that a lot of people who could provide good, top-quality



medical care are not allowed to do it, but in a strange way they are allowed to do it. There is a system set up called the Ontario health insurance plan. In the process the doctors are at the top of the heap. Often, people such as physiotherapists who actually provide the service to the public operate under the supervision, it says, of the physician, but the physician is never there. The physician does not provide the care; the physiotherapist does. The only way the billing process can work is back through the doctor and back through OHIP.

I want a good look taken at all the people who provide medical care to see whether we can devise a better way of funding the process. I am reminded that we cannot do it all the way everybody out there wants us to do it. It is our obligation to look at how we can provide better health care by funding it in a different way. That is about as far as I want it to go. In the health care field in particular, there is an abundance of examples of that.

Let me conclude by looking at one other thing that I notice the Treasurer has said twice now, which I think is important. He has talked about the Legislature's standing committee on finance and economic affairs having a role to play in setting budgets. Let me encourage him on that. I believe it is an important missing ingredient in all this.

We just had a discussion with some visitors from the Northwest Territories. It is ludicrous that the budget for Ontario rips through here without any of us, including the Treasurer, really knowing what is going on. Our municipalities can put together their budgets and every member of a council has a chance to examine in open session what are being established as priorities, how a problem is being addressed and what is being done to resolve a difficulty in a neighbourhood. If our municipalities can put together a budget in that way, why can we not do so? Why can our finance committee not at least begin the process of letting the members have some input into that?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Done.

**Mr. Breagh:** He has said it twice. Now I am going to sit and watch it happen. I hope it will

happen, and I encourage him in all those endeavours.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Is the member on that committee too?

**Mr. Breagh:** No, I am not on that committee, but I happen to have a little to do with setting it up. I make these remarks because what I am searching for is a change in the way governments put together budgets and finance their projects. I am looking for a lot more accountability than we now have. I am also looking for a little ingenuity. The boys at Earl's Shell service did not quite do it all for me this time, but I hope they will have at least one more chance to put together a budget and be a little more imaginative the next time around.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the debate was adjourned.

#### NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to standing order 30, the request that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made. The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) gave notice of his dissatisfaction with a response by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye).

I do not see the member for Brantford.

**Mr. Harris:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** I find it difficult to accept a point of order because a motion is deemed to have been made. If the member and the minister are not here—

**Mr. Harris:** On a point of information, Mr. Speaker: For the smooth operation of the Legislature, now that we are deemed to have adjourned, is the 10-minute response period to the member's speech the first order of business when this debate resumes?

**Mr. Speaker:** The House is deemed to have been adjourned for the business requested by the member for Brantford. I do not see the member for Brantford and I do not see the Minister of Labour. Therefore, I deem the motion to adjourn to have been carried.

The House adjourned at 6:31 p.m.



## APPENDIX

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

## MINISTERS' TRIPS

**19 to 45. Mr. Andrewes et al:** Would the ministers please list all the trips they have taken outside the province since July 1, 1985? Please list all family members and/or staff who travelled with the ministers on each of these trips. Please list the cost to the taxpayer for each of these trips. Please tell us the purpose of each of these trips. [Tabled October 22, 1985]

See sessional paper 44.

## WORK AT HOME BY PUBLIC SERVANTS

**92. Mr. Mackenzie:** Will the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet table an estimate of the number of public servants who are currently doing (a) all or (b) part of their work at home, e.g., those utilizing portable computers or terminals? Will the minister break this information down by type of work performed; ministry, branch, work unit involved; equipment, if any, utilized; and percentage of total hours of work performed at home? [Tabled November 6, 1985]

See sessional paper 45.

## PERSONNEL COMPANIES

**97. Mr. Philip:** Would the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet provide a list of all personnel companies through which the government of Ontario is hiring part-time and full-time staff? Would the minister provide a list of the moneys paid to each of these companies during the last fiscal year?

Would the minister inform whether or not any cost-benefit studies have been done to ascertain if it would be more cost-efficient to use the personnel offices of the Civil Service Commission recruitment branch and/or GO Temp rather than hiring through private corporations? Would the minister table any such studies? [Tabled November 22, 1986]

See sessional paper 46.

## FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

**107. Mr. Baetz:** Would the Premier identify all persons who travelled with him to Nova Scotia in November to attend the first ministers' conference; itemize expenses incurred for plane rental; itemize costs of accommodation, food and beverages; itemize miscellaneous expenses; identify the budgetary source for all expenses

incurred by this trip; and identify all other ministers, provincial officials and spouses who attended, with their itemized expenses? [Tabled December 9, 1985]

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Attendees: Premier, V. Borg, R. Carman, H. Ezrin, G. Cote, P. Dewan, A. Golombek, D. Kirkpatrick, G. Posen, H. Rathbun, M. Maxwell, D. Carr, P. Balog and B. Filman.

Expenses: air fare, \$6,200; accommodation and food, \$5,320; miscellaneous, including workrooms, hospitality, etc., \$3,534.

Budgetary sources: Premier's Office, Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Other ministers and staff: R. Nixon, B. Smith, B. Purchase, H. O'Neil, G. MacDonell, R. Latimer, J. Riddell, C. Switzer, G. Sorbara, B. Tully, I. Scott and G. Carr.

Details on expenses can be obtained from the appropriate ministries.

**108. Mr. Baetz:** Would the Premier identify all persons who travelled with him to Newfoundland in August 1985, to attend the first ministers' conference; itemize expenses incurred for plane rental; itemize costs of accommodation, food and beverages; itemize miscellaneous expenses; identify the budgetary source for expenses incurred by this trip; and identify all other ministers, provincial officials and spouses who attended, with their itemized expenses? [Tabled December 9, 1985]

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Attendees: Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Peterson, R. Carman, P. Balog, V. Borg, H. Ezrin, B. Filman and G. Hutchison.

Air fare, \$12,992; other expenses, \$4,912.

Budgetary sources: Appropriations of the Premier's Office, Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Other attendees: Refer to answers to questions 19 to 45.

## WOMEN EMPLOYEES

**109. Ms. Fish:** Would the Premier advise how many women are employed in the Premier's Office and Cabinet Office; what percentage of total employees do they represent; and what are their job titles, responsibilities and salaries? [Tabled December 9, 1985]



**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** The answer is as follows:

**Office of the Premier:** Number of women, 18; women as a percentage of total, 62.1 per cent.

Names and position titles: Barros, Maria, clerk-receptionist; Borreicho, A. C., senior receptionist; Cormier, Monique, assistant; Dysart, Catherine, executive secretary; Gillam, Wanda, executive secretary; Johns-Noddle, Anitha, public relations officer; LaLonde, Christiane, secretary-receptionist; Legris, Kelly, secretary; McIntyre, Moira, special assistant, legislative liaison; McIsaac, Jane, special assistant, constituency;

Schiefer, Ann, special assistant to principal secretary; Scrimshaw, Judy, co-ordinator, public engagements; Seigel, Shirley, correspondence officer; Serafini, Loreta, community liaison officer; Sorbara, Patricia, executive assistant to executive director; Torsney, Patricia, junior receptionist; Wallner, Eloise, special assistant; Zabielski, Jenny, administrative assistant.

The salaries of public servants are made available in the Ontario public accounts.

**Cabinet Office:** Number of women, 73; women as a percentage of total, 79.3 per cent.

Names and position titles: Aris, Dale, correspondence officer; Bennett, Sally, correspondence officer; Bhandari, Veena, word processing operator; Boros, Jackie, Lieutenant Governor in Council appointments clerk; Bullard, Lynne, secretary to cabinet committee; Ciavarella, Gemma, secretary senior; Cole, Megan, agenda secretary; Dale, Pauline, manager, correspondence records and public inquiries; DeLory, Betty, secretary senior; Dickey, Anne, secretary; Domenichini, Stella, general clerk typist;

Genier, Linda, records officer; Gill, Catherine, secretary senior; Gillis, Marlene, classification and coding clerk; Goldberg, Dora, secretary senior; Gough, Jennifer, correspondence officer; Greer, Katherine, administrative clerk; Hibbard, Barbara, special assistant to government House leader; Johnson, Diana, secretary; Kelch, Margaret, secretary, Policy and Priorities Board; Kohn, Ileen, secretary;

MacGregor, Heather, correspondence officer; Macik, Mary, secretary; Magrill, Laura, secretary; Male, Mary Jean, classification and coding clerk; Mallory, Mary, secretary; Manahan, Patricia, correspondence officer; McDonald, Lynn, executive director; Medeiros, Maria, senior classification and coding clerk; Niggel, Violet, director, cabinet documents services; Nigro, Rose, word processing operator; North, Inga, mail clerk;

O'Regan, Rose, supervisor, writers; Pack, Katherine, distribution clerk-typist; Pereira, Ana, classification and coding clerk; Persad, Susan, filing clerk and messenger; Rampersad, Margot, supervisor, word processing centre; Salenga, Alma, word processing operator; Samuel, Rhona, cabinet submissions clerk; Sarsby, Linda, word processing operator; Sequeira, Odette, administrative secretary; Smiles, Dorothy, secretary; Smith, Margaret, classification and coding clerk; Stoddart, Kim, correspondence officer; Sweet, Winnie, receptionist;

Tchakmakjian, Lena, regulations clerk-typist; Thomas, Molly, senior clerk typist; Thompson, Lanna, supervisor, records; Tong, Virginia, word processing operator; Ward, Virginia, administrative assistant to secretary of cabinet; Warner, Peggi, secretary; Watson, Mary Jane, secretary; Wieland, Susan, Lieutenant Governor in Council appointments; Wilson, Margaret, assistant to public engagements co-ordinator.

**Cabinet-Council for Francophone Affairs:** Names and position titles: Beaugrand-Champagne, L., acting associate secretary of cabinet for francophone affairs; Ciofani, Nadine, bilingual assistant grants officer; Dallaire, M., bilingual grants officer; Frank, M. Jacqueline, senior projects leader;

Goldsmith, Daniela, bilingual information officer; Leroux, Michelle, administrative assistant; Mathieu, Christiane, acting bilingual information officer; Robitaille, Francine, manager, corporate programs and community liaison; Séguin, Cheryl, projects leader; Shoucair, Marlene, bilingual assistant grants officer; Smith, Rolande, bilingual administrative assistant; Tomosvary, Suzanne, secretary; Vigneault, Nancy, bilingual receptionist.

**Cabinet-Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs:** Names and position titles: Benisty, Anne-Marie, bilingual administrative secretary; Charon, Laura G., president; Drolet, Colette, secretary; Gauthier, Madeleine, secretary; Nazaire, Denyse, executive secretary; Woods, Debbie, public relations officer.

The salaries of public servants are made available in the Ontario public accounts.

## MINISTERS' DRIVERS

**125. Miss Stephenson:** Would the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet list the names of all individuals who have been hired as ministerial drivers, their present salaries, their prior employment, whether each position was



advertised and, if so, in what publications, government or otherwise? [Tabled December 9, 1985]

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** The answer is as follows:

Ministry	Name	Salary Range	Advertised
Agriculture and Food	Earl Datars	\$21,599 to \$25,221	No
Attorney General	Wayne Hawke	21,599 to 25,221	No
Citizenship & Culture	Gus D'Agostine	21,599 to 25,221	No
*Colleges and Universities	Keith W. Mark	22,462 to 26,229	No
Community and Social Services	Sean Flynn	21,599 to 25,221	No
Consumer and Commercial Relations	Don Potter	21,599 to 25,221	No
Correctional Services	See Solicitor General		
Education	Perry W. Bimm	21,599 to 25,221	No
Energy	See Natural Resources		
*Environment	P. Rupcic	23,360 to 27,278	No
Government Services	See Management Board of Cabinet		
Health	L. Pettigrew	21,599 to 25,221	No
Housing	P. Mallinos	21,599 to 25,221	No
**Industry, Trade and Technology	C. M. Thompson	22,462 to 26,229	No
Intergovernmental Affairs	See Premier's Office		
Labour	Claude Skinner	21,599 to 25,221	No
*Management Board of Cabinet	Lawrence Knox	25,793 to 30,124	No
Minister Without Portfolio—Citizenship and Culture	Czeslaw Iwuc	21,599 to 25,221	No
Municipal Affairs	G. Schumacher	21,599 to 25,221	No
Natural Resources	Vacant position		
*Northern Development and Mines	Ted B. McEwen	22,462 to 26,229	No
Ontario Women's Directorate	See Attorney General		
*Premier's Office	Peter Sparrow	24,086 to 28,103	No
Revenue	See Treasury and Economics		
Senior Citizens' Affairs	David R. O'Connor	21,599 to 25,221	No
Skills Development	See Colleges and Universities		
*Solicitor General	Gordon E. Warren	24,445 to 28,581	No
*Tourism and Recreation	Guy Skipworth	27,896 to 32,581	No
Transportation and Communications	Randy Westlake	21,599 to 25,221	No
Treasury and Economics	B. Wilson	21,599 to 25,221	No

\*additional responsibilities and/or administrative duties

\*\*classified staff



### SPRAY PROGRAM

**135. Mr. Pierce:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources set forth his position and the positions of the government on spraying for spruce and pine budworm, recognizing that a decision on this matter must be given before the spring of 1986? [Tabled December 9, 1985]

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** In the matter of infestations of spruce budworm and jack pine budworm, it is the position of the Minister of Natural Resources and the government that a responsible program of forest protection should be developed and reviewed well in advance of the spring operational season.

Any such protection program should comprise a conscious and responsible balance of salvage, accelerated cut, spray and no-action proposals, each in the appropriate circumstance.

In 1986, the proposed protection program will contain a large aerial spraying component in which only biological insecticide (bacillus thuringiensis, Bt) will be utilized for spruce budworm, jack pine, budworm and gypsy moth. This determination was the result of all-party discussions, as recorded in Hansard on February 12, 1986.

The province's 1986 aerial spray program will be approximately three times larger than last year's program, covering an area in excess of 700,000 hectares.

### COMMUNITY AGENCIES

**145. Mr. Cousens:** Would the Minister of Community and Social Services give the names and addresses, along with the chief executive officer, of all agencies that the ministry has contracted for services as of December 1, 1985, and indicate the following details of each contract: the total dollars committed for the duration of the agreement; the length of time the contract will extend, i.e., total number of

months; the number of man/woman-years of service that would be expended; the specific goals of the contract; whether or not this was a renewal of a previous agreement and if it was a renewal, how much money was contracted in the new agreement? [Tabled December 17, 1985]

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** The ministry is responsible for providing a wide range of community and social service programs. In most instances, the ministry provides for the delivery of these programs by providing funding to community agencies to provide services. As a result, the ministry enters into an extremely large number of agreements each year.

The ministry has submitted a listing of the agencies receiving funds in 1985-86, identifying the agency address and in most cases the telephone number, the name of the key ministry contact and a listing of the programs under which the agency receives funding. Due to the volume of agreements, the ministry will not be providing the individual agreement details requested. However, information on the dollar value of payments to agencies under the various ministry programs is available annually in the public accounts, volume 3: Details of Expenditure, for those organizations receiving over \$25,000.

See also sessional paper 51.

### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

**146. Mr. Cousens:** Would the Minister of Community and Social Services give a detailed costing of all advertising that has been contracted from July 1, 1985, to December 1, 1985, giving the media used and how much each advertisement cost? [Tabled December 17, 1985]

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** No advertising was contracted from July 1, 1985, to December 1, 1985.

Advertisements placed during the period July 1, 1985, to December 1, 1985:

Subject	Media	Cost	Ads	Date
Child abuse prevention	Kids Toronto	\$5,799	1	Special edition distributed at CNE in August
Personnel advertisements	Topical/Jobmart	\$10,900 (average \$242)	45	July 1 to December 1, 1985
	Various external	\$9,500 (average \$590)	16	July 1 to December 1, 1985

### COMMUNITY AGENCIES

**147. Mr. Cousens:** Would the Minister of Community and Social Services give the names

of all agencies with which the ministry has an agreement in 1985 that are profit-making organizations and indicate whether or not tendering procedures were used in selecting each provider?



[Tabled December 17, 1985]

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** In general, the ministry provides funding to municipal or charitable nonprofit organizations for the delivery of services. In the case of the children's correctional services, special needs for developmentally handicapped and the homes for special care programs, there are some profit-making organizations from which the ministry purchases program services, but these organizations and agreements are not as a matter of course separately identified.

The ministry does not follow formal tendering procedures in contracting for these services. Organizations available to provide the kind of services needed tend to be limited and specialized. In any particular geographic area, the service providers are known to the ministry area office staff, and service providers are selected on the basis of the availability and appropriateness of the service to meet the specific needs of the clients to be served.

In the case of the homes for special care program, the ministry is providing special support programming for clients already resident in the homes for special care funded by the Ministry of Health, the majority of which are private nursing homes.

## FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**148. Mr. Cousens:** Would the Minister of Community and Social Services provide information on francophone services that have been instituted or approved for implementation since July 1, 1985, giving the following data: the names of the new services, the objectives of the services, the annualized cost of the services, the number of civil servants who will be involved in delivering the services, the number of noncivil servants involved in delivering the services, the justification that was used to make these changes and the number of people who are expected to be served because of these changes? [Tabled December 18, 1985]

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** The following is a list of the francophone services that have been instituted or approved for implementation since July 1, 1985.

The information has been categorized by region. Central region is not listed because no projects have been started since July 1, 1985, for this area.

As all services are provided by agencies, no civil servants are involved or will be involved in the delivery of these services.

### Southeast Region

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Name:                       | Employment Opportunity Project (EOP) Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.                                |
| Objective:                     | To provide employment, counselling and training for 500 social assistance recipients.                         |
| Annualized Cost:               | \$200,000.  |
| Number of nonpublic servants:  | Six.  |
| Number of people to be served  | 500.  |
| Justification:                 | Need for service.   |
| 2. Name:                       | United Counties of Prescott-Russell.  |
| Objective:                     | Employment Support Initiative (ESI) to cope with the increasing number of people living on social assistance. |
| Annualized Cost:               | \$150,000.  |
| Numer of nonpublic servants    | Five.   |
| Number of people to be served: | 100.  |
| Justification:                 | Need for service.   |



3. Name: Smiths Falls Centre and Algonquin College.  
 Objective: Ten patients from Smiths Falls Centre have started a day program at Algonquin College. The aim of the program is for the patients to become more autonomous. It is a shared program with the ministry.  
 Annualized Cost: \$15,750.  
 Number of nonpublic servants: 2.5.  
 Number of people to be served: 10.  
 Justification: Need for service.
4. Name: Gloucester Centre for Community Resources.  
 Objective: Gloucester "safe and environment" network. The aim of the network is to give emergency transportation and accommodation for battered women and their children.  
 Annualized cost: \$84,696.  
 Number of nonpublic servants: 1.5.  
 Number of people to be served: 50.  
 Justification: Need for service.

### Southwest Region

1. Name: Le Ballon Bleu Co-op Nursery Inc., Hamilton.  
 Objective: To provide francophone nursery and day care centre for children two and a half to nine years old.  
 Annualized cost: \$42,300.  
 Number of nonpublic servants: Six plus casuals.  
 Number of people to be served: 32.  
 Justification: Need for service.
2. Name: La Boite à Soleil Day Care Centre, Welland  
 Objective: To provide funds for publicity and equipment for the day care centre.  
 Cost: \$19,312 (the Office of Francophone Affairs) approved and funded in October 1985.  
 Justification: Need for service

### Northern Region

1. Name: Service Familial Sudbury.  
 Objective: A community program in family violence to serve about 100 families. Started October 1, 1985. Counselling services to persons concerned.  
 Annualized cost: \$40,000.  
 Number of nonpublic servants: One.



- |    |                                |   |
|----|--------------------------------|---|
|    | Number of people to be served: | Approximately 100 families.   |
|    | Justification:                 | Need for service.   |
| 2. | Name:                          | North Bay Family Life.  |
|    | Objective:                     | Centre related to family violence has two counsellors (one French-speaking) to work with families affected.   |
|    | Annualized cost:               | \$40,000 (for the francophone part).  |
|    | Number of nonpublic servants:  | Two (one French-speaking).  |
|    | Number of people to be served: | Approximately 100 families.   |
|    | Justification:                 | Need for service.   |
| 3. | Name:                          | North Cochrane Child and Youth Services Val Rita (Kapuskasing).   |
|    | Objective:                     | Short-term residential treatment funded under children's mental health.   |
|    | Annualized cost:               | \$395,000.  |
|    | Number of nonpublic servants:  | Eight full-time and four part-time.   |
|    | Number of people to be served: | Eight beds (annual client estimate of 15). Project started in July 1985, opening March 1, 1986.   |
|    | Justification:                 | Need for service.   |
| 4. | Name:                          | STEP, Kapuskasing.  |
|    | Objective:                     | Residential centre started under the program BUILD and FUTURE. The objective is to give prevocational skills to 16- to 24-year-olds at risk of becoming dependent on social assistance. Opened on September 16, 1985 (bilingual). |
|    | Annualized cost:               | \$125,000.  |
|    | Number of nonpublic servants:  | Two full-time and one part-time (including only one English-speaking staff).  |
|    | Number of people to be served: | Capacity eight beds at a time (annual estimate of 40).  |
|    | Justification:                 | Need for service.   |

#### FOREST REGENERATION

**152. Mr. Laughren:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources indicate what proportion of the forest land regenerated in 1980 received a stocking assessment by Ministry of Natural Resources staff for each of the following FMAs: 500200, 500300, 500400, 500500 and 500600? [Tabled January 6, 1986]

FMA No.	Per cent
500200	0*
500300	0*
500400	38
500500	100
500600	100

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** The proportion of forest land regenerated in 1980 that has received a stocking assessment by Ministry of Natural Resources staff on each of the FMA areas is:

\*In response to their commitment to forest management, the companies have extended their responsibilities to include assessment of those areas previously regenerated by the ministry.



**153. Mr. Laughren:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources table all stocking level data for the assessed land regenerated in 1980 for each of the following FMAs: 500200, 500300, 500400, 500500 and 500600? [Tabled January 6, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** Ministry stocking level data for FMAs 500400, 500500 and 500600 are being tabled for regeneration occurring in 1980 on the FMA. Copies of the actual field tally sheets and summaries, where available, are provided. The regeneration assessment manual is available in all ministry offices to aid in interpreting these data. An overall summary of this material could be provided, if desired. However, such a summary would take a considerable time to produce. For this reason, it has not been included.

The companies have extended their assessment responsibility to include areas regenerated by the ministry on FMAs 500200 and 500300.

The ministry will review company fifth-year assessment data when provided.

**154. Mr. Laughren:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources indicate what proportion of the forest land regenerated in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 has received a two-year stocking assessment by Ministry of Natural Resources staff or company officials in each of the following FMAs: 500200, 500300, 500400, 500500 and 500600? [Tabled January 6, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** It is the responsibility of the company to carry out an assessment in the fifth year to ensure that stocking is in accordance with the standards set out in the ground rules. These will be reviewed by the ministry. Formal two-year stocking assessments or field inspec-

tions may be carried out in instances where early follow-up treatment may be anticipated.

The proportion of land regenerated in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 that has received a formal two-year stocking assessment by either company or ministry staff on the FMA area is:

FMA No.	Per cent
500200	nil*
500300	93
500400	34
500500	70
500600	nil*

\*Two-year stocking assessments are characteristic of specific regeneration treatments not common to FMAs 500200 and 500600.

**155. Mr. Laughren:** Would the Minister of Natural Resources table the survival rate data for the land regenerated in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 for forest management agreements 500200, 500300, 500400, 500500 and 500600? [Tabled January 6, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** It is the responsibility of the company to carry out an assessment in the fifth year to ensure that stocking is in accordance with the standards set out in the ground rules. These will be reviewed by the ministry. Survival rate assessments or field inspections prior to the fifth year may be carried out on the FMA in instances where early follow-up treatment may be anticipated.

Survival rate data compiled by the ministry for lands regenerated in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 for FMAs 500200, 500300, 500400, 500500 and 500600 are as follows:

Hectares by Survival Per Cent					
FMA No.		Species	-40	40-50	60-79 80-100
500200	Bareroot	Spruce			95 2892
	Container	Spruce			531
500300*			No data reported		
500400	Bareroot	Spruce			66 145
	Bareroot	Jack pine	305	239	2483 3091
	Container	Jack pine			341
500500	Bareroot	Jack pine			10
	Container	Jack pine	5		
500600	Bareroot	Spruce			32
	Container	Jack pine		59 59	

Survival rate data are an indicator of the relative success of a particular planting project and do not indicate the stocking levels achieved.

\*Additional survival rate data are collected and maintained by the companies.



## DE HAVILLAND AIRCRAFT OF CANADA

**170. Mr. Bennett:** Will the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology table all correspondence, as well as dates and details of meetings with Rimgate Holdings Ltd.? [Tabled January 10, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** The following provides a summary of the dates and details of meetings with Rimgate Holdings Ltd., the most recent event first.

January 8, 1986: Senior government officials met with Rimgate Holdings Ltd. to discuss their continuing interest in de Havilland.

September 1986 to January 1986: Ongoing discussions regarding Rimgate's interest.

August 1, 1985: Meeting of the minister with representatives of Rimgate Holdings Ltd. to discuss the bid to purchase de Havilland.

Meeting of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology with the Honourable Sinclair Stevens, Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, to discuss Ontario's concern regarding the sale of de Havilland. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology expressed Ontario's concern that the province be fully informed on the sale and negotiations. Further, he requested that the Honourable Sinclair Stevens meet with representatives of Fokker regarding the Fokker-Rimgate proposal.

June 1985: Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology staff meetings and numerous telephone conversations were held with various parties interested in the purchase of de Havilland, including Rimgate Holdings and MBB.

## MAILING

**181. Mr. Bennett:** Would the Minister of Housing table for the House an explanation of why a ministry fact sheet entitled Fresh Air and Humidity in a Tighter Home was sent to a citizen by Priority Post at a cost of \$5.10 to taxpayers when neither special arrangements nor urgency were requested by the citizen and when the ministry currently has a contract with Purolator for such deliveries at a cost of \$1.65 per mailing? Is this a new ministry policy designed to utilize funds for anything but housing? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** The mailing referred to in the subject question was certainly an isolated incident, as no such mailings are made routinely.

The Ministry of Housing has a series of 15 home renovation publications such as the one referred to. We receive approximately 100 requests per day from citizens across the

province. The number of booklets requested varies, but a majority of writers request our complete series. The weight of a complete set of booklets is approximately 555 grams, which exceeds the maximum weight limit for first-class postage of 500 grams.

To reduce the complications and labour costs involved in individually weighing and metering each envelope in our Toronto mailroom, we entered into a flat-rate contract with Canada Post. This contract is intended to cover only the bulkier items and combines the advantages of both a competitive rate, \$1.80 per mailing, and next-day service.

Of course, for individual pamphlets such as the one referred to in the question, regular first-class mail is the obvious choice and the one that should have been used. The staff members concerned have been duly reminded of the appropriate procedures.

## CONTRACT WORKERS

**182. Mr. J. M. Johnson:** Would the Premier provide a list of all contract employees, full-time or part-time, hired since June 26, 1985, in all ministries, the Premier's office, agencies, boards and commissions? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

See sessional paper 47.

## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**183. Mr. McLean:** Would the Premier provide a list of former provincial or federal New Democratic Party candidates who are now employed full-time or part-time on any minister's personal staff? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

**184. Mr. Hennessy:** Would the Premier provide a list of former provincial or federal Liberal candidates who are now employed full-time or part-time on any minister's personal staff? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** The Premier does not have personnel records of ministers' staffs. This question should be posed to ministers.

**185. Mr. Leluk:** Would the Premier provide a list of former provincial or federal New Democratic Party candidates who have since been appointed, full-time or part-time, to agencies, boards and commissions? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

**186. Mr. McCague:** Would the Premier provide a list of former provincial or federal Liberal Party candidates who have since been appointed, full-time or part-time, to agencies, boards and commissions? [Tabled January 16, 1986]



**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Candidates in these positions were not asked their party affiliation.

**187. Mr. McCaffrey:** Would the Premier provide a list of former provincial or federal New Democratic Party candidates who are now employed full-time or part-time in the Premier's office or on his personal staff? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

**188. Mr. Leluk:** Would the Premier provide a list of former provincial or federal Liberal candidates who are now employed full-time or part-time in the Premier's office or on his personal staff? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** There are no former provincial or federal New Democratic Party or Liberal candidates who are now employed, full-time or part-time, in the Premier's office or on his personal staff.

**189. Mr. J. M. Johnson:** Would the Premier provide a list of (a) former elected New Democratic Party members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and (b) former elected New Democratic Party members of the House of Commons who are now employed full-time or part-time in any government ministry, the Premier's office or in any agency, board or commission? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

**190. Mr. McCague:** Would the Premier provide a list of (a) former elected Liberal members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and (b) former elected Liberal members of the House of Commons who are now employed full-time or part-time in any government ministry, the Premier's office or in any agency, board or commission? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** There are no former elected New Democratic Party members of the Legislative Assembly or the House of Commons or former elected Liberal Party members of the Legislative Assembly or the House of Commons employed full-time or part-time in the Premier's office. As the Premier does not have personnel records of all ministries, the question should be posed to individual ministries.

This information is not recorded on the records of appointments to agencies, boards and commissions.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

**221. Mr. Bennett:** Would the Minister of Government Services table in the House all agency of record placements since July 1, 1985, ongoing and special for all ministries, including

the specific amount spent for each placement, as well as the total amount spent? [Tabled January 29, 1986]

See sessional paper 48.

**222. Mr. Hennessy:** Would the Minister of Tourism and Recreation please indicate whether the following advertising contracts have been cancelled and what penalties were incurred by the government for cancellation:

Foster Advertising—government information/communication program (expiry March 31, 1986); Ontario Place Corp. advertising contract (expiry September 30, 1987);

Camp Associates—tourism marketing branch contract (expiry June 30, 1988); St. Lawrence Parks Commission communications services contract (expiry March 31, 1986); Metro Toronto Convention Centre Corp. communications services contract (expiry March 31, 1988);

Base, Brown and Partners—tourism consumer publications contract (expiry March 31, 1987);

Reinhold Stoll—German publications and promotions contract (expiry March 31, 1986);

Bowen and Binstock Advertising—travel trade and convention publications contract (expiry March 31, 1987)? [Tabled January 29, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Eakins:** The Camp Associates Advertising Ltd. tourism marketing contract was terminated on 90 days' notice and no penalty was incurred. No other of the contracts questioned has been terminated.

#### PURCHASE OF LAND

**224. Mr. O'Connor:** Would the Minister of Housing support the acquisition of a parcel of land owned by OHC, adjacent to the Oakville Senior Citizens' Residence, by the town of Oakville, at a nominal cost, provided the town absorbs any and all costs to develop a park? Will the minister follow through on the initiative of the previous government, wherein the then Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in a letter dated May 31, 1985, advised that he had directed the Ontario Housing Corp. to discuss this proposal with the town, with a view to negotiating an acceptable and appropriate settlement, and assure this House that this land will become a park for seniors? [Tabled January 29, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** The town of Oakville approached the Ontario Housing Corp. to purchase the above-noted piece of property at a nominal cost. The town of Oakville's offer was



that they would redevelop the property as a passive park, the site to be developed at the town's expense with the maintenance to be at the expense of the Oakville Senior Citizens' Residence.

The then Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in response to a request by the member for Oakville (Mr. O'Connor), indicated his willingness to negotiate an acceptable and appropriate arrangement with the town. It was subsequently brought to the town's attention that the Ontario Housing Corp. board of directors' approval would be required to transfer the property to the town. This approval would be necessary as Ontario Housing Corp. policy clearly states that land declared surplus to their needs will be disposed of at market value.

The Ontario Housing Corp. reviewed the town's offer at its meeting of November 6, 1985. The board, in considering this proposal, requested that staff review the options available for the use of the property and report back to the board. The Ontario Housing Corp. board will be reviewing these options in the near future.

#### MINISTER'S TRIPS

**227. Mr. Jackson:** Would the Minister of Tourism and Recreation provide the following information concerning the minister's recent trip to Dallas, Texas:

1. What was the purpose of the trip?
2. How long was the stay in Dallas?
3. Were any other American cities visited?
4. Please provide the names and positions of all people who accompanied the minister.
5. What was the cost of food, travel, entertainment and local transportation?

6. Does the minister intend to report to the House as to the success of this trip? [Tabled February 6, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Eakins:** The following is the information concerning the minister's recent trip to Dallas:

1. Purpose of trip: to assess projects under consideration for development in Ontario by a major development corporation based in Dallas, Texas.
2. Length of stay in Dallas: minister, two days; Peter Sharpe, one day; Ann Davis, two days.
3. Other American cities visited: New Orleans, Orlando.
4. Peter Sharpe, executive co-ordinator, tourism and recreation operations; Ann Davis, tourism industry consultant.
5. Costs include:

	Travel	Food
P. Sharpe	\$597.15	\$48.00
A. Davis	597.15	29.34
Minister	597.15	—
Total	\$1,791.45	\$77.34

6. Minister intends to report to the House in the future when potential development plans become public.

**228. Mr. McLean:** Would the Minister of Tourism and Recreation supply the following information concerning the recent trip to Tokyo on the weekend of September 13, 1985:

(1) The exact date and duration of the trip in question; (2) purpose of the visit; (3) names and positions of staff who accompanied the minister; (4) duties performed by each staff member on trip; (5) names of spouses or other individuals not directly associated with the minister's office or the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation who attended; (6) minister's travel itinerary;

(7) Staff's travel itinerary; (8) travel itinerary—minister and staff—over and above the conference itself; (9) conference itinerary; (10) cost breakdown of the trip per item per person, i.e., airfare, accommodation, food, entertainment, bonus pay, salaries (if adjusted because of trip); (11) what was accomplished by this trip; (12) any public report of the conference; (13) date of return of minister and each staff member? [Tabled February 6, 1986]

See sessional paper 49.

#### ONTARIO PLACE JOBS

**229. Mr. J. M. Johnson:** Would the Minister of Tourism and Recreation provide all details used to inform members of the Legislative Assembly of the Ontario Place Corp. summer employment 1986 program? Please provide details, date and names of the members who were notified of this student summer employment program. On what date were applications sent out to members of the Legislature?

Please provide a list of all members who received application forms. Did Ontario Place send out the forms or was it the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation? On what date did the minister decide to extend the cutoff date for applications from January 31, 1986, to February 14, 1986? To whom and when was this extension date communicated? [Tabled February 6, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Eakins:** The 1986 summer program requires the employment of approximately 800



students for a period of 18 weeks. Recruitment for these students is handled as follows:

1. Advertising: An advertisement appeared the first week of December in the main campus newspaper of all Ontario universities (15) and all Toronto area community colleges (six). In addition, a large poster was distributed early in December to the placement centre of every campus of every Ontario university and community college (120). Both the poster and the advertisement provided an address and a telephone number for students interested in obtaining further information about summer positions at Ontario Place.

2. Distribution of information: Many of the placement centres requested their own supply of applications to distribute directly from their offices (2,600 were distributed in this manner).

Personnel representatives from Ontario Place attended a summer job fair at the University of Toronto and Wilfrid Laurier University, both on January 19, and distributed approximately 600 applications in this manner.

Approximately 2,200 applications have been sent to date directly from our personnel office in response to telephone and written requests from students for further information.

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines received 600 applications to distribute to its Northern Affairs offices throughout Ontario.

In mid-December, 150 applications were sent to the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, to the attention of the executive assistant to the minister, to distribute to any government officials or others who requested information about summer positions at Ontario Place.

A total of 6,150 applications have been distributed to date.

3. Selection: No student will be offered a basic-wage position without first being interviewed and evaluated by a board of a minimum of two employees of the corporation. Approximately 1,500 students are interviewed. Up to 50 per cent of the positions in each department may be offered to students employed by Ontario Place Corp. in previous years based on good evaluations of their performance with the corporation.

4. Involvement with members of the Legislative Assembly: Ontario Place Corp. has never notified the members directly about summer employment opportunities. Any members who phoned the Ontario Place personnel office requesting applications were sent as many as they required, always that same day.

Ontario Place does not keep records of

who requested applications, since approximately 3,000 requests are received by the January 31 original deadline. However, the personnel employees can recall no more than 10 members who phoned requesting applications. In particular, the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) requested approximately 150 applications to distribute to his constituents, the same number as supplied to the minister's office of tourism and recreation.

The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation gave no written or verbal instructions on whom to hire or how to conduct the hiring process.

Any member of the Legislature is free to contact the minister's office for applications at any time, and some choose to do so rather than contacting Ontario Place directly. At the request of some caucus members, some applications were forwarded to Liberal members on January 7, only three weeks before the cutoff date. The notice they received of the Ontario Place Corp. Summer Employment 1986 program was the same as the one later provided to Mr. Johnson on request.

The ministry assumes that members who request applications and advertise in their constituency newspaper where jobs might be obtained are acting on behalf of all their constituents, not just members of the party currently forming the government. In any case, it is common knowledge to members and students that Ontario Place hires summer staff, and students requesting applications are considered to be showing initiative.

Following the January 27 point of privilege raised by the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, which was interpreted by the minister as a complaint about lack of notice, the minister extended the deadline from January 31 to February 14.

The ministry welcomes any opportunity to clarify employment practices at its agencies.

#### ELLIS-DON LTD.

**230. Mr. Pierce:** Would the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet provide to the House a list of all projects funded directly or indirectly by the province (by all ministries of the Ontario government, excluding Government Services transfer payments such as funded through hospitals, school boards, etc.) in which Ellis-Don Ltd. of London, Ontario, is involved, and what is its role? [Tabled February 6, 1986]

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** Ellis-Don Ltd. of London,



Ontario, is involved in the following projects funded by the government directly or indirectly (transfer agencies are not included). These

contracts were awarded to the lowest bidder after being publicly tendered:

Project	Date of Contract Award	Value	Role
Lake Huron water supply system	August 6, 1985	\$ 6,788,842	General contractor
Ottawa Courthouse	May 2, 1984	35,977,124	General contractor

#### TRAVEL PLANS

**231. Mr. O'Connor:** Would the Premier indicate what the impending plans to travel beyond Ontario boundaries are for the Premier, his personal and office staff, ministers, parliamentary assistants, Liberal back-benchers and their respective staff? Please provide before the House rises the reason for the travel, estimated costs and all people making the trip, complete with itinerary. [Tabled February 6, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** For security reasons, impending travel plans for the Premier are not disclosed until appropriate. As well, travel by ministers and parliamentary assistants is made public at the appropriate time.

#### HIRING OF RELATIVES

**232. Mr. Sheppard:** Would the Premier specify what is the government policy regarding the employment of immediate family members and in-laws of the members of the Executive Council, parliamentary assistants and Liberal back-benchers? Which family members are currently employed in the Premier's office, all ministries, agencies, boards and commissions? What are these positions and the salaries paid? Please provide correspondence, background material, résumés and indicate whether the jobs were advertised. [Tabled February 6, 1986]

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** The policy on the hiring of relatives in the Ontario public service states that no prohibition exists against employing qualified persons, whether or not they have relatives in the service, except that spouses shall not occupy positions in the same immediate work area, under the same supervisor and where one spouse supervises the other.

A deputy minister may, by appropriate written notice, extend the above policy to other family members of an immediate family. A deputy minister may waive the above policy where, upon review, it is found necessary in order to meet program needs and he or she is satisfied that conflict will not likely occur.

As this policy is confined for the most part to spouses who work in the same work area,

information regarding other family relationships in other work areas is not required of employees. Therefore, we cannot respond to this request for a list of family members of the Executive Council, parliamentary assistants and Liberal back-benchers employed in the Premier's office, all ministries, agencies, boards and commissions. Furthermore, the confidential nature of much of the background documentation requested would prevent its submission as well.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

**236. Mr. Sterling:** Would the Premier table all correspondence, background material and résumés which led to the appointment of former federal Liberal cabinet minister, Robert Stanbury, to the Workers' Compensation Board? Please state the remuneration and length of the appointment. [Tabled February 6, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Robert Stanbury was appointed to the Workers' Compensation Board following his recommendation by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association as a business representative. The government was pleased to accept the recommendation of the association and appoint Mr. Stanbury to the board. His appointment is for three years and the remuneration is \$150 per diem plus expenses.

#### PROPERTY REASSESSMENT

**237. Mr. Dean:** Would the Minister of Revenue please provide the following information with respect to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, which has been pressing for the extension of market value assessment to all municipalities in a region or county when a certain number of municipalities have adopted it voluntarily?

When is the ministry going to extend section 63 property reassessment on a county-wide or region-wide basis where municipalities request it? What formula for agreement will the ministry adopt in order that local wishes be recognized? Would the ministry table any background papers, and has a phasing-in policy over a period of years been considered? [Tabled February 6, 1986]



**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The implementation of a region-wide reassessment is being given active consideration in the regional municipality of Sudbury for implementation for the 1986 tax year. There is, of course, no legislation in place at present to allow a region-wide reassessment and implementation would therefore require an appropriate amendment to the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act.

Ideally, implementation of such a reassessment would be based on unanimous agreement of the region/county and the local municipalities. Failing such unanimity, there would have to be a high degree of consensus for implementation in order to respect local autonomy. There is no single formula which will be applicable to each region or county. Rather, the measure of consensus must be appropriate to the circumstances in each of the regions or counties considering implementation.

The assessment and tax impact study for the regional municipality of Sudbury will be forwarded to the member for his information. These are the documents that have been presented to all members of each municipal council in the Sudbury region to allow them to make a knowledgeable decision on reassessment.

Section 362 of the Municipal Act allows municipalities to phase in tax changes that result from a general reassessment of properties.

#### ONTARIO EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

**238. Mr. Leluk:** Would the Minister of Citizenship and Culture provide the following information regarding the recently announced extension of TVOntario service to Kenora, Bancroft and Parry Sound, bringing total access in the province to 96 per cent of the population?

1. What commitment will the minister make to ensure that completion of the network will take place?

2. Will the minister table the schedule of network extension to areas such as Sarnia, Pembroke, New Liskeard and Listowel immediately? [Tabled February 6, 1986]

**Hon. Ms. Munro:** 1. The government is committed to further extension of TVOntario's network to the extent that this is technically feasible and resources are available. It is not technically feasible at this time to provide every resident of Ontario with direct access to TVOntario's signal.

When the present expansion projects in Peterborough, Belleville, Kingston, Parry Sound, Tobermory, Bancroft and Kenora are completed,

96 per cent of Ontario residents will have direct access to TVOntario service. When these expansion activities are further advanced, a technical and financial analysis will be undertaken to assess the most effective means of providing service to the remaining four per cent of the population. It is important to remember that technology is advancing rapidly in this field and that future service plans may be affected in a variety of ways.

2. TVOntario has not yet proposed a schedule for further network extension beyond its present projects. The development and delivery of the French network service and the delivery of the Legislative Assembly's signal have placed a substantial burden on TVOntario's engineering resources. As indicated above, a technical and financial analysis will be undertaken to assess the most effective means of providing service to remaining unserved areas of the province when current expansion projects are further advanced.

#### HAZARDOUS SPILLS

**264. Mr. Harris:** Would the Minister of the Environment table a list of all spills of toxic materials which have occurred in the province since June 26, 1985, indicating date, location, substances involved and the deleterious effects of such spills on the environment? [Tabled April 24, 1986]

See sessional paper 50.

#### SPILLS BILL

**266. Mr. Harris:** Would the Minister of the Environment table a list of all individuals and firms and their addresses which have filed claims under the provision of part IX of the Environmental Protection Act, the spills bill? [Tabled April 25, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** There are no individuals or firms who have filed claims under the provision of part IX of the Environmental Protection Act, the spills bill, to the Environmental Compensation Corp.

The ECC received some notices of claims, but these are not claims and may not become claims. The minister has not received any claims or notices of claims. The ministry cannot know of claims that may be lodged against parties other than the minister or the ECC.

#### POLICE COMMISSIONS

**275. Ms. Gigantes:** Would the Solicitor General provide the following information: (a) How many police commissions have members



who are women; and (b) how many women sit on police commissions? [Tabled May 1, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** (a) 28; (b) 32.

#### INTERIM ANSWERS

**250. Mr. Ashe:** Hon. Mr. Peterson—An answer will be ready for tabling on or about June 30, 1986.

**258 to 260. Mr. Cousens:** Hon. Mr. Sweeney—The ministry will provide responses on or about May 22, 1986.

#### RESPONSE TO PETITION

##### ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

Sessional paper 318, re Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** Over the past 20 years, OISE has made significant contributions to education in Ontario. The institute has had a strong record of achievement in graduate studies, research in education and field services. In such areas as French immersion, applied cognitive science, women's studies, adult education and curriculum, OISE has attained a reputation as a world-class centre for investigation.

For its part, the University of Toronto is one of our oldest and most venerable institutions of higher learning. The scope of its academic programs and quality of its research activities

have put it among the most renowned and respected universities in the world.

It is the view of the government that bringing together these two outstanding institutions will provide enhanced opportunities for academic and research excellence in the field of education. The institute, with its nine field centres, graduate studies and research activities, fits logically with the well-established undergraduate programs at the University of Toronto's faculty of education.

The government is seeking to ensure that the clear potential benefits from the integration of OISE and the University of Toronto are realized. It is therefore hoped that the two institutions can work co-operatively in developing a detailed plan of union that, in turn, can be supported by both governing boards. Because this may take some time, the Treasurer has indicated his willingness to delay the timing of the financial integration. In the meantime, action is under way to extend the current affiliation agreement between OISE and the University of Toronto.

The government is concerned first and foremost with the provision of quality education to the young people of Ontario. Both OISE and the University of Toronto play significant roles, directly or indirectly, in the delivery of education, and it is our intention to enhance the educational opportunities to students with the fulfilment of the commitment contained in the budget.



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Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)  
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
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Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)  
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)  
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)  
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)  
Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)  
Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Cochrane North L)  
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)  
Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)  
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)  
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)  
Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)  
Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)  
Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)  
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)  
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)  
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)  
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)  
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)  
Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House and Acting Speaker (Carleton East L)  
Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)  
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)  
O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)  
Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)  
Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)  
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Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)  
Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)  
Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming NDP)  
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South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)  
Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)  
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)  
Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio (London North L)  
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)  
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)





# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**

Wednesday, May 21, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC





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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, May 21, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

**Mr. Speaker:** I beg to inform the House that I have laid upon the table a copy of an order in council appointing the Honourable Gregory Sorbara, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development, as commissioner to the Board of Internal Economy in place of the Honourable Robert Fletcher Nixon, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Andrewes:** Occasionally we hear about errant mail finding its way into the wrong hands, mail soliciting funds for political organizations and even soliciting membership in certain of what we might call deciduous political fora.

Recently, we came into possession of a return postcard addressed to Bob Rae, MPP, Leader, Ontario New Democrats. On the reverse side of this postcard are what appear to be two multiple choice questions. However, there is no choice. The questions are: "Yes, I believe we should end extra billing." "Yes, I support the Health Care Accessibility Act. Name and address."

Members of the New Democratic Party have often been heard to castigate government by poll. Public opinion has long been a part of politics, but when a political party offers the public no choice, it gives the public no option. Please let the public be heard.

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr. Martel:** For some time now, I have been suggesting that the Ministry of Labour and 400 University Avenue are a swamp. If one were to read today's headline in the Toronto Star, it supports all the allegations I have been making for months—in fact, for about four years. The headline says, "Workers Dying as Safety Laws Ignored, Inspectors Charge." These are the very people who are in charge of trying to enforce the act, except that they are limited in what they can do.

If we start from square one, they have six to eight weeks of training and three to four hours of training on toxic substances. If we look at code 99, about which I asked the minister several weeks ago, which eliminates all forms of routine inspections, there are fewer inspections than ever before. This is the minister who is going to get tough with those who are violating the act. Out of 116 cases recommended for prosecution, only 56 cases in the past eight or nine months have been successful. Out of 263 charges laid in the fiscal year to date, only 58 convictions have been obtained.

It would be nice if the minister were to hire Sopinka and Robinette, whom they were going to hire to prosecute me, to prosecute some of those individuals. What is more important, it is time the inspectors got some support out of that swamp down there and that convictions occurred when workers are killed because the act is violated.

## MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

**Mr. Ward:** Last November the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) announced in this House a northern health travel grant program. This program has enjoyed the support of all parties in the Legislature. In addition, members representing northern ridings have been helpful in providing input and offering suggestions to improve the program further. I thank the members for their input and indicate that as we review the operations of this program, their concerns will be taken into consideration.

I am informed that in the first three and a half months of the northern medically necessary travel grant program more than 9,000 patients have received funding and grants of nearly \$1.5 million have been processed. Again, this has been in a period of only three and a half months. By comparison, during the last election campaign, the previous government announced its intention to implement a program that would provide funding to an estimated 4,400 patients who found it necessary to travel to southern teaching hospitals, thus bypassing medical care that was already available in the north.

In short, the northern health travel grant program has been an overwhelming success. It



fulfils a commitment this government has given to the people of northern Ontario. As this program is reviewed, it will no doubt be further refined and enhanced. I look forward to the input of members as we undertake that review.

#### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Ms. Fish:** Recent discoveries of chemical contamination in our food highlight the need for a pure food act in Ontario. My leader, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), proposed just such an act several months ago. The possible sources of contamination in our food are pesticides used in our own production, contaminants moving into Ontario by wind or rain and contaminants of all types coming in on imported food.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) should be the advocate for the production and sale of contaminant-free food. Expanding laboratory testing facilities would provide farmers with production tools that would result in foods of unquestionable quality and assure the consumers of this province of the safety of our production system and the resulting quality of its products.

Checks of imported foods are particularly critical because there are chemicals used in other jurisdictions that are not licensed in Ontario. In many other countries, the levels of care and management of producers are not nearly as high. How can we permit the consumption of imported food that is not subject to the same strict standards applied locally?

The food producers in Ontario want to be assured that they are producing, eating and selling food products of excellent quality. The consumers of Ontario want similar assurances.

#### OSHAWA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**Mr. Breagh:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you and all the members will want to know that tonight in Oshawa at the civic auditorium we will be inducting some 20 people into the Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame. We have a fine tradition of excellence in athletics in the community of Oshawa. The 20 people who will win the awards tonight are an interesting variety of people in amateur and professional sports, all the way from people one would readily know, such as Bobby Orr and Eddie Westfall, to people who won medals in track and field at the Olympic games in the 1940s. The purpose of the exercise is to offer role models, some examples of excellence in athletics to young people who are very much interested in athletics.

While I am on my feet, I want to congratulate the committee that put together this idea, even if it was headed by one Terence V. Kelly, who is a known Liberal in Oshawa. He is also a fine man. We have handled the problem by hanging red ties around their necks so no one will hurt them.

#### SPRAY PROGRAM

**Mr. South:** Eastern Ontario has never seen a forest pest as destructive as the gypsy moth caterpillar. Last year almost 250,000 hectares of land suffered moderate to severe defoliation. During 1986, this area may increase threefold. This government is committed to easing the burden of this voracious pest. The joint Ministry of Natural Resources-municipal government co-operative agreement is a step towards this goal in assisting private land owners in controlling the gypsy moth on their properties. To this end, I would like to inform the assembly of the opening of the Irvine Lake air strip, which took place on Friday, May 16.

The entire gypsy moth aerial spraying program will be co-ordinated from Irvine Lake. It will have the largest fleet of airplanes of the five airstrips involved. Aerial spraying with *bacillus thuringiensis* will begin very shortly, weather permitting.

I want to commend the minister and his staff for their commitment and organizational ability demonstrated in this project.

#### VISITORS

**Mr. Jackson:** It is my great pleasure to welcome a very special group from Bavaria visiting us in the Legislature today. They are hosted by the students of Aldershot High School in the great riding of Burlington South. The principal, Mr. Cooper, and his staff and students are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their school this week.

Their guests in Ontario and in the House with us today are members of the Statdkapelle Buchloe Band, now under the direction of Mr. Horst Adolf Garner. The band has performed throughout Europe for more than 100 years. It has travelled to many countries, including those of the Eastern Bloc, and has brought many memorable performances to those who have had the opportunity to hear and enjoy it, including those members who were privileged to hear the band today in the lobby downstairs.

Travelling with the group and seated in the west members' gallery is the mayor of Buchloe, Mr. Gert Daiseberger, along with the conductor, Mr. Garner, and the organizer, Mr. Bernard Rid.



It is with great pleasure that I welcome them and ask all members to join with me in a big Ontario Willkommen.

2:11 p.m.

# STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES DISASTER RELIEF

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** Yesterday a number of questions were raised regarding what this government would do for individuals in the community of Winisk in northern Ontario, which was totally devastated by spring floods this past weekend. At that time I indicated I would be meeting with representatives of the community to determine their needs and to direct provincial efforts to those undertakings that would be most useful in helping the community and the people who live there.

I would like to outline exactly what is happening. This morning, cabinet declared the community of Winisk a disaster area for purposes of receiving financial assistance under the disaster relief assistance program. Cabinet also established an interministerial committee, headed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, to co-ordinate the provincial response and to work with the federal government in delivering our relief initiatives. Other ministries involved in the provincial response are my own Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Quite rightly, the immediate response of evacuation, temporary housing and food was provided by the federal government, which has responsibility for status Indians. It is my understanding, having met with federal officials this morning, that in the longer term the federal government will also undertake construction of a new town site for the inhabitants.

In a telex to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and me, Chief George Hunter of the Winisk band said his main concern is to get an early start on an airport at the new townsite of Peawanuk. The province has arranged with Chief Hunter to meet with representatives of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the provincial interministerial committee tomorrow morning to discuss ways in which the airport construction program can be expedited by the province.

Furthermore, after federal funding, the province will contribute the amount necessary to restore the victims to their pre-disaster condition

under the terms of the disaster relief assistance program.

I would like to extend the sympathies of all of us here to the members of the Winisk band in this time of loss and sorrow because of the death of two band members.

**Mr. Harris:** If I might, I would like to comment briefly on the statement on Winisk. We applaud the initiative taken today. We join in the sympathies at the loss of the two band members. However, as we indicated yesterday, we are very concerned at the lack of provincial presence in this disaster for the first five days of the disaster.

As one who represents a riding that went through a similar situation in 1979 with the community of Field, but not nearly as serious, a typical response that a community in Ontario can expect from its government is that the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) will be there. If it is in the north, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines will be there. One would expect a decision-making body to go there, make the decision and reassure the community, and not wait for five days.

As the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) pointed out yesterday, they were concerned there was no provincial presence for those five days. It was in those early moments when they were losing their whole town site, their whole village. Where was the Minister of Northern Development and Mines? He was at a wedding. Where was he the next day? I guess he was recovering. It took two more days to get up there.

Where was the minister responsible for native affairs, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott)? He was sitting down here in Toronto. Where was the Premier? Where was the Minister of Municipal Affairs? Is it because this village is so far away? Is it because they are native people, out of sight, out of mind? Does the government think nobody knew what was going on?

The response was a joke, it was ridiculous and the government should be embarrassed.

**Mr. Pouliot:** I quote from page 5 of the statement by the Minister of Northern Development and Mines: "Furthermore, after federal funding, the province will contribute the amount necessary to restore the victims to their pre-disaster condition under the terms of the disaster relief assistance program."

It is an appalling and shocking statement to invite the residents of the former community of Winisk to go back to the Third World conditions—and I choose my words carefully—that prevailed in the northern part of the province. The silver



lining in this disaster, if there is any, is, first, an invitation to the government not to wait for the feds to do their share, but if it means what it says to act now by showing the way. Second, the uniqueness of the situation demands that the government improve on the conditions, not perpetuate the kind of substandard conditions that our first Canadians have been asked to endure for decades and decades.

I bring this to the minister's attention, with respect, to amend in its entirety his statement on page 5, make a big, bold step forward and give—

Interjection.

**M. Pouliot:** Ne m'interrompez pas, attendez une minute, là.

Give the people of Winisk a chance to become like the others.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** My colleague the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) and I were advised yesterday by Falconbridge of a decision by that company to lay off a substantial number of its employees at its Kidd Creek mine in Timmins. Members may now be aware of the numbers of layoffs. Today notice was given to 269 employees. Of this number, 36 workers—27 staff and nine clerical—will be terminated immediately and will receive 16 weeks' pay in lieu of notice. Approximately 205 additional employees—146 in production jobs and 59 in clerical jobs—will be terminated on September 2, 1986, having received 15 weeks' notice and two weeks' additional pay. I am advised the remaining 28 employees will take early retirement. Finally, 21 summer students will be laid off and between 150 and 200 contract employees will be laid off by mid-June.

The work force at Kidd Creek currently totals 2,724. Following the layoffs, it will be reduced to 2,455.

Everyone appreciates that mining and other resource companies are operating in a difficult economic environment. Metal prices are weak and efforts are being made by resource companies to become more competitive through cost reductions.

Having said that, my colleagues and I and, indeed, all members of this government are determined that due process and fairness must be observed in dealing with the workers affected by the cutbacks, workers who are the real victims.

While Falconbridge has observed the technical notice and payment in lieu of notice requirements of the Employment Standards Act in this instance, I must say I believe that companies

such as Falconbridge and others have a moral obligation to advise the government and the affected employees at the earliest possible date in order to explore every alternative to employment reduction and, where employment reduction seems inevitable, to make every possible effort to ameliorate hardship for those affected. That is why we very much regret that we received notice of the substantial layoff only hours before it was made public.

This situation heightens my concern about the adequacy of current provisions with respect to notification, consultation and review in major layoff situations. I want to advise the House that this matter is under active review within my ministry. A report of the inadequacy of current provisions and possible revisions is being prepared in collaboration with other concerned ministers.

In addition, I am writing to major employers and their organizations to indicate our concerns about present processes and to enlist their support for reforms which would address the hardship and unfairness occasioned by announcements which are a shock to all involved and leave us little or no time to intervene constructively.

As the recent situation at Great Lakes Forest Products has shown, there are steps that government can take. There, following the intervention of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and myself, a third-party review of the justification for the closure of the company's waferboard plant is under way. Similarly, we have sought and obtained assurances from Kimberly-Clark that no action will be taken at its operations in Terrace Bay and other nearby communities by way of work-force reductions until there has been a full and collaborative assessment of the problems and potential solutions to that company's current problems.

I will keep the House fully informed as we proceed with these initiatives.

**Mr. Gillies:** I have several points with regard to the statement by the Minister of Labour on the work reduction at the Kidd Creek mine.

First, I remind the minister, who comes in here and tells the House he learned of this layoff only hours ago, that my colleague the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) raised this in the House last Thursday, and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) said he knew nothing about it. While the minister comes in here and wrings his hands about Kidd Creek, my colleague the member for Cochrane South is in Kidd Creek at this moment meeting



with the mayor, with officials of Falconbridge and with federal officials to see what can be done about it.

I remind the Minister of Labour of two quotes. This is from the Premier during the election campaign last year. In response to the closure of 172 plants in the province in the last three years, the Liberals promised legislation, and I quote the Premier, "so that a company will have to provide workers and the community at large with justification for a closure."

I again quote the Premier. The Premier told the *Toronto Star* in October of last year that Ontario will name a committee to probe layoffs in mines both at Falconbridge and Inco.

Neither of those promises has been kept. The minister tells the House that companies have a moral obligation to inform the people of this province when there is going to be a layoff. We in the official opposition say the government has a moral obligation to keep its word.

**Mr. Rae:** Of all the weak, pathetic and half-baked statements that have been made in this House by the Minister of Labour, and they are large in number, none is more pathetic than the one he chose to make today with respect to the announcement at Kidd Creek. No specific measures are set out in his statement. The government has dithered and dallied and has done nothing about layoffs, reductions in the work force, notice or justification.

If I might comment briefly on the remarks made by the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) for the Tory party, the government has continued a tradition of 42 years of sustained inactivity with respect to protecting the workers of this province when it comes to layoffs and shutdowns. We had 42 years under the Tories and we have had nearly a year under the Liberals, and nothing has been done with respect to this.

The minister says the government has got something going with respect to "a third-party review of the justification for the closure." The closure took place in Thunder Bay. After the closure took place, it does not have a process of justification; it has somebody in there who is going to be reviewing the company's decision.

At Kimberly-Clark, where my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) and I met last week with the management, we had no sense of its eagerness and willingness to sit down and talk to the people of this province about justifying whatever reductions will take place. This is not good enough. There is a complete absence of leadership when it comes to jobs, and

the minister's government deserves to suffer for it.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** On a point of privilege or order, as you may decide, Mr. Speaker: The member for North Bay—

**Mr. Harris:** There is no member for North Bay.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** Well, wherever he is from; Nipissing. In the course of his response, the member made a reference to my role as minister responsible for native affairs. I was dedicating myself to native issues when he was playing pitch-and-putt in North Bay. The reality is—

**Mr. Andrewes:** Poor boy.

**Mr. Grossman:** Did he hurt your feelings?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is appropriate for members to get up to correct statements they have made. I appreciate the member's point of view. However, now it is time for oral questions.

**Mr. Grossman:** We are sorry if the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) is not used to criticism, but he will to get used to it if he plans to stay for even the one term he is going to serve.

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** You still have a great lesson to learn.

**Miss Stephenson:** So have you, and you are going to learn it rapidly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Davis:** There is a passage that says, "Pride goeth before...a fall."

**Mr. Grossman:** My colleague should be careful. He will hurt the Attorney General's feelings again.

#### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I would like to address the city of Toronto's paper on toxic contaminants in food and its serious implications.

I have just returned from the World Conference on Large Lakes in Mackinac Island, Michigan, where the paper was presented. Yesterday I was briefed by the author, Dr. Kate Davies, on her findings and further actions called for to protect our food.

The preliminary information we have both from this paper and from our own test results indicates our food meets the Department of National Health and Welfare standards set out in the Food and Drugs Act. None the less, I will not be satisfied until we have eliminated these substances from our food chain.

However, the Food and Drugs Act does not cover dioxins. An Ontario Ministry of the Environment report on dioxin ingestion stan-



dards, which I ordered released to the public last year, is a leading document on this topic worldwide.

The Davies paper reported a composite sample of fruits had dioxin levels 38 times the standard proposed in the Ministry of the Environment study. Another fruit sample in Dr. Davies's study showed dioxin levels at 1.5 times the proposed intake standard.

When government scientists were asked to review a preliminary draft of Dr. Davies's findings, they initiated testing of Ontario apples, the major component of the fruit composite. Our lab's results, completed yesterday morning, do not confirm the earlier findings. Ministry results showed dioxin levels at one four-thousandths or less of the proposed standard. More testing is clearly called for. We are doing it for fruits, as well as for milk, meat and vegetables.

In general, Dr. Davies's findings confirm my ministry's recent actions in dealing with this worrisome problem of toxic substances in food. Her main preliminary finding is that toxic contaminants in southern Ontario food, water and air are at levels similar to those found elsewhere in North America. A broad program of source reduction is the only sensible way to cut the amount of toxic substances going into the environment and thereby into our food.

This is the course I set for my ministry 11 months ago. On taking over the Environment portfolio, I was determined to take a hard line against polluters. I believed then, as I do now, that the people of this province are fed up with the fouling of our water, air and land.

In addition to ordering a stepped-up enforcement of our environmental laws, I instructed my staff to stand back and take a sceptical look at the fundamental premises of those laws. We found the approach was wrong. In a nutshell, the legislation allowed polluters to pour poisons into lakes and pump them into the air, provided there was enough dilution. They just watered down the stuff and out it poured. That is why we are turning the regulations around to reduce the total loadings of toxic chemicals into the air, rivers and lakes.

Consequently, we are developing a series of new regulations to reduce greatly the discharge of toxic contaminants by industries and municipalities into water bodies. Once these contaminants get into the water, they get into the aquatic food chain. We are also learning that evaporation can lift those poisons from the water, carry them a long distance and drop them on forests and food crops.

My ministry is also revamping its 18-year-old regulation on air pollution to deal with both short-range and long-range transport of hazardous pollutants. However, the brutal reality is that even if we totally eliminate the use of toxic substances in our province, it would not prevent some contaminants from getting into the food we grow here.

In an unfortunate parallel with our acid rain problem, we must realize that we cannot do it alone. A solution calls for an international approach.

We are just entering a new era of realization that chemical poisons can be carried great distances by the winds and come down as rain. Dioxin is one of those poisons. An international effort is imperative. People at the Mackinac conference, such as Dr. Davies, Dr. Doug Hallett and commissioner Robert Welch of the International Joint Commission, all advised me that this is the case, and I concur.

Dr. Davies has done us all a valuable service in presenting this report. It is further proof that we are on the right track in cracking down on the sources of chemical contamination.

**Ms. Fish:** On the matter of dioxin found in our foods, we certainly are pleased to learn today that the Minister of the Environment has been briefed by the author of a most disturbing study sponsored by the Toronto Board of Health on dioxin contaminants in our food.

The key that is before us in this statement that is so disappointing, however, is that the minister indicates nothing more than expressed concern and nothing more than further studies. He talks, for example, about changing the regulations. He has talked about that for a year and he has done nothing. The single regulation he has changed is to make it easier in this province to list dangerous pesticides in the absence of full and complete opportunities for the public to be informed.

The other thing he has done in the area of dioxin, notably on dioxin in drinking water, is to decide that whereas no level of dioxin consumption was safe in the past, once it was found in drinking water, some was safe.

Is that this government's response to dioxin in the food chain? Now that we have found it, is some consumption suddenly safe?

**Mrs. Grier:** The statement of the Minister of the Environment on dioxin in food shows at least that he understands the problem slightly better than does his colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), but that is all I can say about his statement.



The minister says the Food and Drugs Act does not cover dioxin. The Food and Drugs Act of this country does cover dioxin. It says the standard for dioxin in food in this country is zero detectable. That limit says we must have no dioxin in our food. The fact that the World Health Organization has no standards for dioxin is an indication of its concern about this poison.

What disturbs me is that the minister appears to be taking pride in the fact that his ministry is developing standards for dioxin that are to be used in this province. The standard has to remain at zero, and until that is enshrined in the legislation of this province, none of us is safe.

It is time the minister stopped telling us about the regulations he is going to revamp and started taking some concrete action, because there is not one whit less pollution in the rivers or in the air of this province since he took office than there was before he took office.

2:34 p.m.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Mr. Grossman:** In view of the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), my question is for the Minister of the Environment. I wonder whether the minister can indicate to us if he knows specifically which countries are using chemicals currently banned in Ontario to treat crops that eventually find their way to grocery stores in Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The honourable member may be aware of the statements of Kate Davies in her report at the conference on large lakes in Mackinac. One of the things she indicated was that DDT, for instance, is showing up rather strangely, in her view, particularly in the light of the fact that DDT has been banned in North America.

To a certain degree one has to say it is speculation, but it was her estimation, being a relative expert in the field, that very likely that would be emanating from Central America and would be deposited through long-range airborne pollutants not only on Ontario but also on much of the rest of Canada and the United States.

In terms of that conference, we are looking at a number of areas where countries may be using substances that we do not use in North America at this time. That was the one example she revealed to me, and she thought Central America was probably the source.

**Mr. Grossman:** The minister is admitting he does not know which countries are using chemicals that are banned in Ontario.

Interjection.

**Mr. Grossman:** I do not want to hurt the feelings of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott).

Given the fact that the Minister of the Environment either knows now or ought to have known quite some time ago that other countries were using chemicals banned in Ontario, what measures is he taking not only to test Ontario foods but also to test those foods such as pineapples which as a result of chemicals used in other countries do contain chemicals such as 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane, a very dangerous chemical? What tests is he doing on imported foods to make sure DBCP is not contained in pineapples imported into Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The member may be aware that the Department of National Health and Welfare has done some considerable testing in the field of foods. Those foods relate not only to Ontario but also to the rest of Canada. It is my view that the Department of National Health and Welfare, in conjunction with provincial ministries, should co-ordinate an effort to test as many of these foods as possible.

As the member appropriately points out, we can look at the deposition that takes place in our province, some of which originates in our province and some of which originates outside the province. However, there are other practices that are followed in other countries in the world and depositions that come from extraneous sources in other parts of the world that might well have a marked effect.

In conjunction with the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of the Environment in Ontario, it is our plan to test as many of these products as possible to determine, as the member again shows his concern about, those which may be subjected to pesticides or herbicides that we would not permit in this country.

**Mr. Grossman:** I have read the minister's statement today and listened to his answer. Is the minister informing the House today that he is currently doing no testing of imported fruits, even though he is aware that some countries use chemicals banned in Ontario and that he is only now, as a result of the issue raised in this House, beginning to think about doing tests on those imported fruits?

2:40 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I do not think the member can say it is as a result of an issue being raised in the House. If the member had been at the



conference—and I recognize there are duties in the House for him—it would have been interesting for him to see the number of people on an international basis who were exceedingly impressed by Dr. Davies, who was essentially breaking new ground for many of them. They indicated that on an international basis, there would have to be testing of foods by those countries where they originated and by other countries, with co-operation through some United Nations agency, the World Health Organization or other avenues. It is our view that with the Department of National Health and Welfare being responsible for the health and welfare of the people of this country—

**Mr. Grossman:** That is buck-passing.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** No, it is not. They are the member's friends in Ottawa, and I know he would want to see them do that.

**Mr. Grossman:** Is the ministry doing any testing? What is it doing about it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I did not call for a supplementary.

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr. Gillies:** My question is for the Minister of Labour and arises out of the very serious charges made against officials in his ministry in the Toronto Star today.

In view of charges that officials of his ministry are intentionally thwarting prosecutions against employers, pressuring inspectors to rescind health and safety orders, ordering inspectors to stop regular inspections of some work places and sending in a second team of inspectors in an attempt to undermine the original inspector's orders, what does the minister say?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I want to acknowledge at the outset that I am pleased to see that party's new-found concern for the occupational health and safety of workers in the province.

I have had a chance to review in a preliminary way the report that was prepared by the occupational health and safety officers subcommittee of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union divisional negotiating committee. The report contains a number of matters that give me very serious concern as well as some very serious allegations.

We are reviewing the report right now. I have had some discussions with a number of my colleagues. I intend to have further discussions with them as I look at options for responding, which I will be outlining in the next short while.

**Mr. Gillies:** It is all very well for the minister to refer to new-found concern on this side of the House. There were more prosecutions issued under the Occupational Health and Safety Act in 1985 than there have been in 1986. The workers of this province were better protected under the previous administration than they are under this one.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Will you ask the minister the question?

**Mr. Gillies:** It is now some three months since representatives of the inspectors within the ministry said they were inadequately trained and not able to meet the tasks put before them. I remind the minister again that while his request for prosecution of—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Will the member place his question?

**Mr. Gillies:** What is the minister doing to equip his inspectors to take on the manifold tasks he asked them to do but it is clear they are not able to do?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** First, unlike the previous government, this government is committing substantial additional resources. The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has granted an 18 per cent increase in the budget of the Ministry of Labour, a budget those people flat-lined year in and year out. Part of that budget is going to be dedicated to increased and comprehensive training, particularly in the occupational health field.

One final thing: That honourable member likes to suggest prosecutions are down. In April 1985, the last month the Conservatives were in power before the election, the number of prosecution requests from the industrial health and safety branch was three. In April 1986, with this government in office, the number of requests was 39.

**Mr. Gillies:** The requests from the opposition for information from this government are up; but that does not mean we get any more. The requests for prosecution are up; the prosecutions are down.

We recently brought to the minister's attention the case of the Ministry of Health where, faced with a prosecution order, the Ministry of Labour reordered after six weeks and permitted a second inspection to allow the situation in those ambulances to drag on for a total of eight months. If the minister cannot solve something as simple as defective ambulance equipment, how can we expect him adequately to protect the workers of this province against hazardous substances?



**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** It is interesting, but the honourable member has his facts wrong. There was no second inspection. There was an opportunity for the Ministry of Health to see methods by which the compliance could be achieved. That has not yet been achieved, but the ambulance in question, as my friend might know—

**Mr. Martel:** Baloney.

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** —as I am sure my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) does, that ambulance has been taken out of service.

The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) has not yet learned that one of the reasons his figures are wrong and my figures are right is that not all matters that have gone in for prosecution during April have yet come out; not all prosecutions are under way. However, I can tell my honourable friend that in the year ended April 30, 1986, prosecution requests to legal from the industrial health and safety branch were more than double, 195 as opposed to 79. In the period since our new orders policy and our new prosecution policy went into effect, the number of requests is more than triple what the members opposite were doing.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. New question.

#### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. I am sure the minister will be aware that the Ontario Medical Association consultancy fee, in terms of extra billings, is roughly \$6,000 an hour. That is what it is costing the people of this province. We have now had all the meetings in November, all the consultations in January and all the so-called negotiations starting in March. At the end of every meeting, either one party or the other says some progress is being made, but when you finally cut the mustard, we find nothing has changed.

When is the government going to move off the dime, move off the mark and bring in the legislation to finally end extra billing in Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman knows legislation was introduced in December. We did move off the mark, and the mark has been developed over the course of several weeks of debate in this legislative forum. It has gone out to committee; it is in committee now.

I can tell members that we have had several meetings and that the people in the province expect us to deal in a very sensitive and rational way with respect to negotiations and to try our very best, which we have and as we are doing, to come an agreeable settlement. I did not see the progress that I had hoped to see last night, as has

been widely reported, and I can tell the honourable gentleman that I will be speaking with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on his return tomorrow.

**Mr. Rae:** Great. The minister is going to have a chat with the Premier tomorrow. That is his definition of action. I do not think that is going to impress the public. The public wants to know whether the minister is going to bring forward the legislation he has left in limbo. Yes or no? Is it the government's plan to bring forward the legislation from committee that will finally, once and for all, end the charging of extra fees costing \$100 a minute, \$6,000 an hour, \$1 million a week to patients in this province?

The delay is costing patients every minute we speak. Why not bring in the legislation? Let us get on with it and end extra billing in the province.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** We are and have been moving to deal with this issue in a very sensitive way. Some people would like us not to enter discussions with the profession in this province. That is something I have rejected. I have made every effort and attempt to enter into those discussions. Very worthwhile opportunities were explored. We have not been able to make substantial progress at this stage. That is not unnatural in situations like this.

What that gentleman would like me to say is that this government has a position which would not entail making that very substantial effort to come to an agreement. We have made that agreement, and we have tried the best we can. I have a report to make to my Premier, as I have indicated to people who have asked that question. I will do that, and following that meeting, perhaps there will be more to say.

**2:50 p.m.**

**Mr. Rae:** That will cost \$144,000 to patients in the province who are going to be extra billed as a result of that delay. On May 15, the minister said in the House in answer to a question from my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), "We will reimburse those people," referring to patients, "for any payments made for medical services that are insured services in this province." Can we take it from that comment that at the very least it is his intention to reimburse the \$6,000 an hour or \$100 a minute that is being lost every moment the minister delays bringing in this legislation to patients who are paying through the nose because of his inability to make up his mind what to do?



**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman speaks of my delay. It is not my delay. There are certain people who have needs for legislation to be processed through the standing committee on social development. I recognize that; he recognizes that. He has set certain deadlines and he wants to work towards those deadlines. That is fine. He can explore those. Each of us has a legislative timetable, and we are working on those to deal with what is very important business in this House. We have a lot of very important and constructive business to do, and we will bring that legislation forward when we have the opportunity, obviously.

The question he asks, though, is about reimbursing people. Our position has always been that no patient in this province should have to pay extra for insured benefits. That is what that statement was designed to indicate to that member and to the people. The problem is that we are working with a situation of the old order that extra billing be allowed. We are working on ways of eliminating that. The legislation is there. We have worked as best we could with dispatch, understanding and reason in our attempts to come to a negotiated settlement.

**Mr. Rae:** I think the minister said no. I am not sure, but I think that is what he said.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Rae:** I want to ask a question of the Minister of Labour. The minister said in his statement today, apparently justifying the layoffs on behalf of the company at Kidd Creek, "Efforts are being made by resource companies to become more competitive through cost reductions." That was his justification for the layoffs.

When he rose to make the statement, was he aware that Kidd Creek made a profit of \$5.5 million in the first quarter of 1986? That is a dramatic improvement over 1985, when it made \$13.4 million, and over 1984, when it made \$16.8 million. Was he aware of those facts? How could he make that statement if he had any understanding of the profitability of Kidd Creek?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** The comment in terms of the profitability of companies and the competitive position of resource companies was not aimed specifically at the Kidd Creek situation.

I do not intend to stand in this House and attempt to justify the decision announced by Mr. James yesterday. We on this side of the House intend to have discussions with Mr. James and with the workers to see whether these changes can be alleviated. Those discussions will take place with me and my colleague the Minister of

Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine).

We do not accept that these layoffs necessarily have to and ought to take place, and we have already been in contact with Mr. James. He is out of the country until next week, but we intend to see him immediately upon his return. There are a number of options that we believe may still be open to us, and we intend to explore those options with Mr. James in as comprehensive a way as we can.

**Mr. Rae:** I am sure the minister is going into his discussions with Bill James legally nude. He has no power, no capacity. Bill James is going to laugh in his face because the minister has no power to tell him any different.

Is the minister aware that after Falconbridge bought Kidd Creek for roughly \$615 million, it increased its debt costs by much more than \$30 million and that the workers are being laid off and fired to pay the bank debt that Bill James and his swashbuckling friends at Falconbridge have incurred because of their decision to swallow Kidd Creek? Is he aware that is what has happened in this situation?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I am not aware of all the details of the purchase of Kidd Creek, but I say again to my friend the leader of the third party, it is not the intention of this minister to stand in the House and justify the layoffs. My statement today was simply a statement to the House, indicating the course of events as they transpired in the past 24 hours, to bring the House up to speed in terms of the level of the layoffs and to indicate in a general sense the government's interim response. That response is to write to the chief executive officers in northern Ontario to indicate to them that we wish to have, in a voluntary way for now, some earlier indication of potential problems. I say to the leader of the third party that we are continuing to look at more permanent solutions.

**Mr. Rae:** The minister has two gears and two speeds, neutral and reverse. Those are the speeds he demonstrates in the House every day.

Why does the minister not have the power in terms of justifying a decision? Why does he not have the power to force a delay in the making of layoff announcements? Why did the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) not know the answers to our questions yesterday when we asked him specifically about Kidd Creek? Why does the minister not have the answers to any of those questions?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I can only say that the government is looking at changes it might



undertake, changes that have been discussed. I acknowledge to the leader of the third party—

**Mr. Rae:** Bob Elgie was looking at them six years ago.

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** We are actively looking at changes we might make that would give us additional notice time or would move to a form of justification of one kind or another. My friend suggests this government is no different from the previous government. I reject that. The difference between this government and the previous government is that when that party was in power, it never looked at the options open to government. This government does, and it is doing so on an active basis.

### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Some months ago, when the minister first discovered there was some dioxin in the drinking water—

**Mr. Foulds:** Are there no back-benchers in that party to ask questions?

**Mr. Grossman:** There are more back-benchers in this party than in my friend's party; I can tell him that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Once again, I will just wait until there is order.

**Mr. Grossman:** Some months ago, when the Minister of the Environment first learned of dioxin in drinking water, he asked for an immediate meeting with the two opposition party leaders. He gathered a lot of staff for a secret meeting in the cabinet room to share that concern with us. He then called a massive news conference, together with some of the experts in the ministry, to tell the world about the problem, to deal with and explain the extent of the problem.

Now we learn that the minister, together with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), became aware some weeks ago of the possibility that there was dioxin in our food. Why did the minister participate in that coverup? Why did he not call an immediate press conference, as he did in regard to water, explain the extent of the problem, have all the scientists and follow his government's policy of no walls, no barriers and no secrets?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I am certain the member is fully aware that the information he is referring to is not information of the Ministry of the Environment. The member will recall that when we talked about dioxin in the water, we had found dioxin in the raw water supply before. He

should not pretend it has not been there for years. I indicated that in measuring in parts per quadrillion we had found for the first time ever, in our detectable limits, dioxin in drinking water.

The Ministry of the Environment did the testing, and we provided the information. The report to which the member is referring is not a report of the Ministry of the Environment; in fact, it is a report by Dr. Kate Davies for the International Joint Commission.

**An hon. member:** That is not what the Minister of Agriculture and Food said yesterday.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** It is. It is a report—  
Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Interjections are out of order. They are not supplementaries.

**3 p.m.**

**Mr. Grossman:** Is it therefore the position of the minister, as he outlined it, that if the Ministry of the Environment, his own ministry, finds some dioxin in water or food, he will immediately tell the people of Ontario, but if information comes to him from a source other than his own ministry, he is not going to tell the people? He is going to sit on it for a number of weeks, do some internal studies and if he is satisfied it is time to tell the public, then he and his friend the Minister of Agriculture and Food will do so. What is the difference between the two cases?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The Leader of the Opposition knows that he is completely mischaracterizing it. When we received an indication, because of this report, that there were findings of dioxin, on the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, we immediately did a test as a peer reference.

**Mr. Rae:** Yes, they did.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The leader of the third party recognized that. As soon as we did our tests—and we got the results yesterday—members had the results sitting here in the House. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food provided those. The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for providing the information that is available, and we will do so on any occasion.

**Mr. Gordon:** Only because we asked.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** No, not because members asked. The member knows—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Grossman:** Where was the ministerial statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Could I remind all members that interjections are out of order?



Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** A recess may be in order. I remind members of section 19(a) in the standing orders. Will you please address your question or response through the chair? Does the minister have any further comment? .

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I will say to the Leader of the Opposition, as I have, that a number of people at a number of times are doing various studies and have findings. I cannot confirm whether these are accurate. These people are commissioned by the International Joint Commission and there is an undertaking that they release their results. The paper which was presented to the conference is one that belongs to Kate Davies. She will stand by the information. Upon receiving information of this kind, the Ministry of the Environment does confirmation testing and then reveals its results. That has been and will continue to be the policy of this minister.

**Mr. Grossman:** Where are the results?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I am not responsible for releasing results.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I remind members that it has taken six minutes for a question, a response, a supplementary and a response. It is my job to make certain as many members as possible can ask questions and receive replies.

**Mrs. Grier:** It is important that the Minister of the Environment make it very clear who was speaking for the government, the Minister of Agriculture and Food yesterday or himself today.

We heard yesterday that the Ministry of the Environment had been asked to test fruit. It has been testing apples since we first heard there might be a dioxin problem. The test results have not revealed the same kinds of results the Toronto study revealed. If that is the case, can the minister tell us why he has not tabled those results, what other testing he has done and what results he has found in any extensive testing?

**Mr. McClellan:** Right on. Get the story straight.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** With all due respect to the member, the story is straight. The Minister of Agriculture and Food revealed that yesterday. The results I have here today are directed to Dr. Frank, who is a director of the agriculture laboratory services branch, provincial pesticide residue testing laboratory, and it comes from R. E. Clement, Ph.D., senior scientist, dioxin, mass spectrometry research.

**Mrs Grier:** Is that dated May 20?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** It is dated May 20, 1986.

**Mr. Grossman:** Yesterday; that is quite a coincidence.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** That is right.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Will the member take his seat?

**Mrs. Grier:** Perhaps the minister can explain why there were no results until May 21, 1986. We had the Storm Warning report last November. The Minister of Agriculture and Food told us yesterday it was several weeks ago that he was advised of the findings in the Kate Davies study. What has the Ministry of the Environment been testing, when was it doing the testing and when will the results be tabled in this House for us all to see?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** As I have answered the leader of the official opposition, as soon as the Minister of Agriculture and Food made the request to the Ministry of the Environment, we immediately began the testing of apples that had been requested, because the laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the member would know, does not have the ability to test that. Our laboratory at the Ministry of the Environment does have that ability. Therefore, we did the testing as soon as requested, and the results are as the minister indicated yesterday.

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. First, this is not a question; it is a request. I trust that the minister, in keeping with his policy, will now send us immediately, not after question period, a copy of the test results he has referred to.

Is the minister telling the House that several weeks ago his ministry was put on notice that there might be a problem with dioxin in apples and that, coincidentally, the test was completed yesterday, the very day the issue was raised in this House by the opposition parties?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** As the member is aware, and she alluded to this, first, we had Storm Warning, which was issued and then withdrawn by Environment Canada. Then we had the Royal Society of Canada, in conjunction with its counterpart in the United States, talk about toxic rain. Then we had the Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation talk about toxic rain. Then the Minister of Agriculture and Food asked to discuss it with Dr. Doug Hallett, who was the senior scientist with Environment Canada until he departed from there some time ago.

When we got that request—I believe it was three weeks ago—to do the testing for the dioxin, we did the testing for dioxin in those apples, so



we would have that information. As soon as we had the results of our dioxin testing, they were revealed.

**Mr. Grossman:** They were not revealed. We do not have them.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** They were revealed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food yesterday.

**Mr. Grossman:** I say to the Minister of the Environment, who still has not revealed that information, that in question period yesterday the Minister of Agriculture and Food was here. If the test was completed before two o'clock, he could have risen and made a statement to this House, as this minister has promised to do on every environmental problem. He did not. He did not release it during question period yesterday when we asked the question, and the Minister of the Environment did not make a statement today releasing that information. We still do not have it. As of 3:10 this afternoon, he has not given it out.

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary?

**Mr. Grossman:** If, when he was alerted several weeks ago that there might be a problem with apples and other foods in Ontario, and if, as he acknowledged earlier in question period today—

**Mr. Speaker:** Question?

**Mr. Grossman:** —he knew that other countries were using dangerous chemicals—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I asked twice for a supplementary question. I did not hear a question. Therefore, I am going to ask for a new question.

**Mrs. Grier:** I asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food yesterday whether he would table the document. It appears to be the same one the Minister of the Environment had. I hope it will be tabled today.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question?

3:10 p.m.

**Mrs. Grier:** My question is a more general one. Despite the very specific reports we have had today, his statement is very general in talking about the report he had released earlier on dioxins. Does the fact that he has released and boasted about this report on dioxin ingestion standards indicate that he is contemplating setting standards for this province that would apply to the ingestion of dioxin by way of water or food?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** As the member will know from that document, which was released several months ago, our ministry had been working with

several other bodies to develop standards, because we are always requested to do so, for dioxins and dibenzofurans. As a result of our discussions with the World Health Organization, after some peer review and after some consultation with the federal people, that document was produced.

The member would agree with me, and she has said so consistently, that we would not want to see any of these substances in food, water or anything we would consume. The fact is, however, that they are present. Sure, they are not present in the largest quantities, but the fact that they are present at all should be a matter of great concern.

**Mrs. Grier:** Given that all these substances are present and given that extensive testing is revealing the presence of these substances, can the minister tell us why he has taken no action against the 43 per cent of industries surrounding the Great Lakes that are exceeding even his minimal guidelines? When can we see some action to reduce the amounts of these contaminants from all sources within this province?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Of course, that is exactly the avenue of action that both Dr. Hallett and Dr. Davies have advocated, particularly Dr. Hallett, on many occasions. That is the route we feel should be followed.

That is why, for instance, we have at the present time the changing of regulation 308. As the member would know, regulation 308 deals with emissions coming out of stacks. The practice in the past has been to do this in the context of the point of impingement as opposed to what is actually coming out the stack and not really to take into account appropriately the total loadings into the atmosphere.

Second, we are in the process of developing a new water regulation that will deal with the effluent going into the water. It is one I would have liked to see in effect 10 or 12 years ago, but it was not. We are now in the process of developing that, and it will contain very extensive monitoring, followed by abatement. Again, it will take into consideration—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Runciman:** My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Can he inform the House what action he has taken on behalf of Ontario's consumers to ensure that appropriate, adequate tests are being carried out for dioxin, DDT and other contaminants in baby food?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** As the questions and answers have been going on all afternoon, the



actual direct responsibility for food testing is that of the federal government under the Canada Health Act and the Food and Drugs Act. That is not a responsibility of this ministry.

**Mr. Runciman:** Apparently, this minister is too busy negotiating for shopping malls to register an interest in consumer safety. He did not mind shouting to anybody who would listen about potentially tainted wine. Will he now ensure that his cabinet colleagues take whatever action is necessary to protect Ontario's consumers?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The problem is one we have addressed to the federal government in a general way, not in a specific way as far as baby food is concerned.

However, to reply to the member, wines are a direct responsibility of ours because we market them. When it comes to these other products, just because we do not do it does not mean we are not concerned about it. It is just that certain responsibilities belong to the federal government—that happens to be one them—and we have certain responsibilities.

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr. Martel:** I have a question to my friend Russ, the Minister of Labour. In November, the minister talked about tough directives for prosecutions for violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Today's report in the Toronto Star indicates the minister's inspectors are not getting any support. I quote one sentence, "In our view, there is a resolute reluctance on the part of this ministry to initiate prosecutions that inspectors have requested and an equal reluctance to successfully prosecute when these have been undertaken."

When is the minister going to get serious and clean up that swamp down there and lay charges in a way that is going to protect the workers of the province?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I am sure my honourable friend, who has seen the ministry's prosecution policies, agrees with me that in carrying forward those policies vigorously we will be entirely serious.

I have had an opportunity, as I said to the House earlier, to look at the contents of the report fairly briefly. I can only say to my friend that we are reviewing the report on an intensive basis and I expect to be in a position to advise the House by the beginning of the week at the latest on what actions we will be taking in response to the report. I am sure the member will understand I

wish to discuss these matters with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on his return.

**Mr. Martel:** Is the minister aware that at Campbell Red Lake this year alone there have been two fatalities? Henry Hens died of suffocation in January and Ingo Budweg died in March. The minister's own policy indicates that within 13 weeks the ministry will decide whether to prosecute.

In accordance with his own policy, can the minister tell me why to this time there has been no decision to prosecute in the first case, which is now in the 18th week since the fatality, or in the second, now in the 12th week? When is the minister going to get serious and realize his own staff is taking him to the cleaners?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I want to share with my honourable friend and with the House a concern I have that I believe is probably true, that is, because of the new policy, we have been loading on to the legal branch of the ministry very large amounts of additional work.

As I pointed out in an earlier response, in the month of April alone, we sent from the industrial health and safety branch to the legal branch 13 times more requests for prosecutions than were sent in April of the previous year. We have had some increase in the number of people working in the legal branch, but we have not yet had the kind of increase that may well prove necessary.

I asked the director of the branch some 10 days ago to indicate to the deputy and me whether there is sufficient manpower to deal with all these matters in the kind of timely way I know the member and I wish them dealt with.

#### INTEGRATED HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

**Ms. Hart:** My question is directed to the minister with responsibility for senior citizens. My riding of York East has a very large population of senior citizens, and I have heard from them that their primary concern is being unable to stay in their own communities and in their own homes for the longest period possible.

What has this government done to date to enable those seniors in York East to stay in their communities and to stay in their own homes?

3:20 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Van Horne:** I want to observe that it is very pleasant to see our new colleague the member for York East showing such sincere interest in her constituents.

Prior to the member's joining us, in January of this year, I had the pleasure of announcing some new initiatives of this government. They came as a result of the review I had made of seniors'



services in the province. Basically, we announced in January that we would be spending \$11 million on home support services. Beyond that, my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) announced a further program involving \$60 million for the long-awaited integrated homemaker program.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is your time you are wasting. I will wait.

**Ms. Hart:** I understand the integrated homemaker program is in the pilot project stage at present. When will the evaluation of that pilot project take place so that other communities, including my community of York East, will be able to take part in it?

**Hon. Mr. Van Horne:** That is a very good question because there are implications for not only the citizens of York East, but also for the citizens of other communities in Ontario. It is our intention that the evaluation be immediate and that additional centres be brought on stream in this coming year, as was indicated in the budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), and in the forthcoming five or six years so that, ultimately, all communities in the province will benefit from the program. The evaluation will begin immediately.

#### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday his colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) said, "Our tests have definitely indicated that the amounts of contaminants found in food, not only of dioxin but also of PCBs and other contaminants, are well below the standards set by the Department of National Health and Welfare and well below the standards set by the world testing organizations." The minister said, "Our tests have definitely indicated."

I now have a copy of a report which we finally got from the minister a moment ago. The covering letter says, "Because samples such as apples have not been previously analysed by our laboratory, the precision and quantitative accuracy of the data are not known."

How does the minister reconcile this report from his own laboratory with his remarks earlier today and with the remarks of the Minister of Agriculture and Food yesterday?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I will just re-read this section that the member has made reference to. As members may or may not be aware—and the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), who is the

former Minister of the Environment, might inform members of this—until about two years ago or about 1984, there were no protocols for the testing of dioxin in water, but those have been developed.

As the member for Sarnia will be aware, the protocols have not been easily developed for the testing of dioxin in food. This testing, too, is relatively new. That is the procedure it has to go through, which is why one cannot be as precise as one wants to be in this regard if one is a scientist. The development of the protocols—for instance, how an apple is crushed or what part of the apple one tests for dioxin—is very recent in regard to the testing of dioxin in food.

**Mr. Grossman:** The Minister of Agriculture and Food tried yesterday to reassure everyone that there was no problem with regard to apples, based upon the work of the Ministry of the Environment. The ministry has now done a study where, by its own admission, the precision and quantitative accuracy of the data are not known.

How can the minister take the position that he found out about the problem three weeks ago, that he has not tested any other products, that he is not yet able to reassure the public with regard to the products tested and that his lab can only by today report to the public that it cannot say very much because the accuracy is not known? How can the minister defend his position, given the seriousness of this problem?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** That could be said of the precision of any of the testing that has been done, whether it has been done by the Ministry of the Environment or by other labs that have done testing in these cases. For instance, one specific lab might do one test and find one result, and the same lab might do another test and find a result significantly different from the previous test.

This is why Dr. Davies said that two things are most required at present. The first is further extensive testing to confirm or not confirm the results of any testing done so far, and the second is a determination to eliminate and reduce the sources as they exist in this province, this country or the world.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I remind the members that the last question and response and the supplementary and response took close to six minutes.

**Mr. Harris:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I think this should be done during question period. We are at an important stage in question period. I have a point of order and I wish to express our concern to you. We are dealing with one of the gravest situations. It is a technical



matter. You have chosen this time to cut questions short, to cut off technical data—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I will explain why following question period, rather than taking the time now.

### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Grande:** My question is for the Minister of Citizenship and Culture and relates to cultural industries and free trade. I would like to ask the minister whether she is aware that Richard Parker, a top adviser to United States Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter, labelled Canadians an emotional lot because we want to defend our country. He further stated that the US will never agree to a free trade pact unless Canada agrees to withdraw laws protecting broadcasting, book publishing and other cultural industries. The response of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) was very weak. Does the Minister of Citizenship and Culture not agree with me that the weak response of the Premier clearly indicates a softening of the position he took in November 1985 when he said—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The minister.

**Hon. Ms. Munro:** From observing what the Premier has given as his commitment to cultural industries, my indication is that we will never allow those products and industries to be put on the bargaining table. In connection with any of our talks with Marcel Masse, the federal Minister of Communications, and other ministers, we have made it quite clear that those products and that expression of our cultural identity are not up for grabs. My impression is that Mr. Reisman is waffling, and this province is digging in its heels in not allowing cultural industries anywhere on the bargaining table. If the member would like to expand his question, I can respond.

3:30 p.m.

**Mr. Grande:** It is clear from what the government of Ontario has been saying that the federal government has dismissed the provincial government's attempt and considers it to be a total failure. Since that attempt to keep cultural industries off the negotiating table has failed, what other steps will the government take to protect the cultural interests of our province and our people?

**Hon. Ms. Munro:** I do not believe the Premier is going to back up at all on his stand on the protection of the cultural industries. What this minister has done in that regard is to lobby effectively across the provinces to make sure we

have an effective block against the lobbying and protectionist stand in the United States.

I do not and cannot believe that this province and this country will allow anything as sacrosanct as our cultural expression to be up for grabs. What I perceive from Mr. Reisman are observable signs of waffling, and I know this government and this ministry will pick him up on that.

### RENT REVIEW

**Mr. Mancini:** All this week my constituency office has received calls on a regular basis in regard to statements made by a member of the opposition. Therefore, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Housing. Can the minister inform the House very clearly and emphatically about the process that must be carried out to pass the rent review legislation we so desperately need in this province to protect tenants?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I think the member is referring to Bill 78. As he knows, Bill 78 has already gone through first reading, and second reading is coming up. The Rent Review Advisory Committee has presented a report to me that is very extensive. We have read it extensively, and amendments will be made to Bill 78. At the moment it is going through the process, and I expect it will be in the House by perhaps the first or second part of June. I hope so.

**Mr. Mancini:** I am very glad to hear that the member of the opposition who made those public comments is incorrect.

I would further ask the minister, in regard to retroactivity of this important bill, whether we are going to have the four per cent retroactive, or whether that is one of the things the minister is still considering. What advice has he received from his landlord and tenant group on this matter?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** When we announced the four per cent when Bill 77 was approved, it was retroactive. We have also stated that when Bill 78 comes out, it will be retroactive. It is not a matter for consideration. That is the position this government has taken.

### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The study he sent over to us says, "It is not known whether the Zenon data"—those are the data from the other study—"are comparable to the data in table 2, since the Zenon results are for a fruit basket composite, while the data in table 2 are for apples



only." Given that and the statement in the end of the summary, which says, "The available database is too small to make any general conclusions regarding average levels of" dioxin "found in food," is the minister prepared today to support the assurances of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) given in this House yesterday?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The information we have provided to the House through this document—and I am sorry; I thought it had been provided yesterday in the House—and the information we have from our lab results would confirm by and large what the Minister of Agriculture and Food has had to say.

What is important, and I think the member identifies this, is that we are looking at one particular product. The member would understand that there would be a need for a wider number of tests. We were asked by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to test the apple because it had been identified, I believe, as the one that was shown in the Davies report to have the highest reading of dioxin.

I think the member would agree with me—he has stated this in the House—that the testing of a wide range of products would provide a better base of information for all of us, and that is what Dr. Davies has had to say.

#### NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** I would inform the members because of the previous point of order that I have tried my best to make certain that as many members of this House as possible have the opportunity to ask questions and receive responses.

In the past we have been able to get up to about 45 questions and supplementaries, which means 90 members have actually been able to get on their feet within the hour. However, today we had only 33 questions and supplementaries. Therefore, I felt that some of the questions were long and some of the responses were long. I hope you will allow me to try to get as many members as possible to participate.

#### PETITIONS

##### NATUROPATHY

**Mr. Shymko:** This petition is addressed as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Ms. E. J. Smith:** This petition is sponsored by the Ontario Motor League. It contains roughly 300 signatures and states:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

#### REPORT BY COMMITTEE

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Callahan from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill, as amended:

Bill Pr12, An Act respecting Ottawa Little Theatre Inc.

Motion agreed to.

**3:40 p.m.**

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) had finished his part of the debate. I do not know whether any other members had responses. I see that the member for Oshawa is not available at the moment.

**Mr. Harris:** I will stand down my response, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Offer:** I am pleased to join in this debate on the budget of May 13 last. At the outset, may I take a moment to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on the evenhanded manner in which you oversee



the workings of this chamber. You have, like your predecessors, made certain that proceedings within this House are carried out in a most propitious manner.

This budget provides a specific direction that this province should and must take: how this government can best meet the needs and concerns of the people of this province not only today or tomorrow but into the 21st century.

We must recognize that we in this province are at a fiscal crossroads where we have a clear choice of the direction in which we can move. We have the choice of retaining the status quo, of not listening to the sounds of change about us, of not responding to the increasing calls of many sectors to adapt to that which is happening; or we can move forward on many different fronts to respond to those demands being made today and, maybe most important, be in a position to respond to the demands which we know, or should know, will be made tomorrow. The choice is ours.

This budget clearly indicates that this government is ready to respond to the demands so often ignored in the past. This budget provides for the continuation of change, of new direction, of new purpose which the people of this province asked for in May 1985.

I feel very fortunate and honoured that the people of my riding of Mississauga North gave me the opportunity to have a voice as their representative in the shape this province is to take. The riding which I have been instructed to represent is, to my mind, a riding of diverse interests, of many needs and concerns.

The riding of Mississauga North clearly expects and demands this government to move forward to make certain this province is a leader in this country and is characterized by proaction rather than reaction. This expectation is not unique to the riding of Mississauga North, but indeed to the city of Mississauga. This city is one of the fastest-growing cities in North America. It is a dynamic place to live and work. It is a city that cares about its citizens. It is a city that is responding to the demands of the people who live and work within its boundaries.

Like the workings within the city of Mississauga, this budget clearly looks not only to tomorrow but also to the next decade and beyond. It recognizes that we must meet the needs and concerns of the day and yet at the same time not unnecessarily burden the future. It recognizes that this province is part of a world economy, an economy in which there is great competition, demand and responsibility. We

must not only continue that which we now have and build upon it, but we must also reach out for the new, more competitive, more technologically demanding forms of enterprise. If we do not, if we lack the political will and courage, then we shall fall back. We will not even be able to maintain that which we now have.

The budget of May 13 clearly indicates that this government will be moving forward and adapting to the demands of the future. For instance, I see a special place for our small business sector in this budget. For too long, this sector has in the main been ignored. For too long, the small business person has shouldered the greatest of tax burdens on the one hand and yet on the other has been responsible for most of the new jobs in this province.

At long last, the small business persons and the role they play in this province are recognized in a concrete way and not just given some lipservice. The small business sector provides a source of opportunity for women, our youth and minorities. The small business entrepreneur is unafraid to take a risk. These persons provide the inner strength of our business community.

I am honoured to be part of a committee made up of parliamentary assistants whose mandate is directed towards meeting the needs of the small business entrepreneur. This first-time committee is not just a legislative and regulatory review mechanism, though that is one function. This committee is there to propose and recommend programs designed to enhance the small business sector. Most important, it is to be an access point to small business interests; it is there to listen and to act. Not only to recognize but also to enhance this sector of our province is to strengthen our province immeasurably.

The new ventures program outlined in the budget will assist the small business person in that it will provide loan guarantees of up to \$15,000 to newly established businesses, along with advice and counsel to new entrepreneurs. This program will develop self-discipline among participating business owners through a strong emphasis on business planning. Measurable improvements in the survival and growth of new firms will result from the linkage of better access to capital and management upgrading. This one program alone will result in job creation and great growth of new companies.

This program is unlike others in the past. First, it applies solely to the small business entrepreneur. Second, it applies to operating capital as opposed to hard assets. Third, it keeps the small business entrepreneur free and independent. It



enables him or her to start a business without the government delay of the past, but with government help only. It is a program that maximizes the strength of the small business sector and minimizes the often negative effect of government involvement.

The budget clearly maintains this government's response to the environmental concerns facing Ontario. This budget provides for continued support for the security fund for waste cleanup and new funding to ensure quick and efficient response when toxic spills occur anywhere in the province. This government has clearly demonstrated its resolve in the protection of our water, air and land. Much more can and will be done.

It was only a few weeks ago that I attended the annual meeting of the Mississauga Citizens Environmental Protection Association. The president, Linda McKee, spoke at some length of the problems facing our environment and how local associations such as MCEPA can make a difference. This association is not one that started yesterday; rather, it has been in existence for some time. It has taken on hard, controversial issues and has seen them through. For instance, it provided effective and persuasive arguments against the placement of a toxic waste site in Mississauga.

As Ms. McKee spoke, she alluded to the actions of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). She spoke highly of his efforts and the direction he has given. That is so important. This province finally has a Minister of the Environment giving directions and unafraid to take action. I believe this Minister of the Environment will in many ways be looked upon as the first true such minister. He will be the minister everyone else will be compared to. In the future, all persons will be measured against this Minister of the Environment and his achievements.

The time is long overdue for government to have regard not only to maintaining but also to improving the quality of life of our senior citizens. There is no question that the demographics of our society are changing. A greater percentage of people in this province are getting older. It is necessary for government to respond to this fact. It is well that this government is so responding. As a first step, a cabinet minister has been made responsible for the specific and growing concerns of our senior citizens.

It is not sufficient that senior citizens' homes be the only way to meet the concerns of our seniors. The seniors of this province have been responsible in large part for making our commu-

nities what they are. It was through their efforts that the communities were shaped to meet the needs of the people who now live within them.

Through the efforts of this government, if seniors have made communities responsive to the needs of those who live in them, the communities now should be responsive to the needs of their senior citizens. In a short while, a white paper will be released dealing with health and social services for seniors. It will recognize what must be done. Greater emphasis must be put on programs enabling seniors to remain a viable part of the communities they shape and on programs enabling seniors to live independently and to continue to contribute to their communities.

This budget focuses on helping people lead more independent lives; it allocates funds for the improvement of community support services. This government understands that it cannot afford to ignore the lifelong efforts of people such as Velma Kennedy, 70 years of age and the Mississauga Citizen of the Year. This government understands that it strengthens this province to offer the Velma Kennedys of this province the opportunity to continue to contribute to and remain part of their communities.

### **3:50 p.m.**

This budget clearly is responding to the needs of our health care system in a responsible and forthright manner. As indicated in the budget, \$850 million will be allocated for a major, multi-year hospital capital expansion. This program provides for acute and chronic care beds, with the realization that planning takes years. The budget reflects the government's position that health care planners need to know not only what the position of the government is today but also what it will be in years to come. This budget breaks new ground in governmental fiscal responsibility. It provides a clear indication to all that this government's commitment to our health care system goes beyond this year in question and extends to the future.

As we move ahead, not only in small business, the concerns of our senior citizens and health care facilities but also in technological training, employee-employer relationships, education and child care, this budget and this government reflect the realities of the day. Lottery revenues no longer shall be limited only to community recreation and cultural activities. As many people have suggested, they shall now be allocated for other concerns and programs, such as cancer treatment, community hospitals and university research. The realities of lottery funds are finally meeting the realities of the needs of the



province. The message is out: This government is listening and responding.

Perhaps most important, the budget realizes that certain budgetary allocations must not be foisted, as in the past, on the shoulders of our citizens of the future. The budget understands this and for the first time embarks on a road to financial responsibility. There is an understanding that, on the one hand, certain programs have finite parameters of affordability; it is understandable and acceptable by all that we can pay out only that which we take in. Yet on the other hand, the budget clearly sets out that there are expenditures of long-lasting benefit, which transcend the current fiscal year. For instance, moneys spent on hospitals, schools, housing and the like are clearly expenditures which will benefit not only the citizens of today but also future generations.

It is understood and accepted that financing expenditures of this kind is not only permissible but also responsible. The business sector has long called out for this distinction. It has long stated that there is a difference between financing a plant and financing the wages of persons working within the plant. It has indicated clearly that plant financing can and should be done over many years—that benefits many for many years to come—but when employee wage financing goes beyond the fiscal year's planning, the degree of financial stability of that company decreases. This government clearly understands and recognizes that. This recognition by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and by the budget acknowledges the reality of what the province is and what it can become.

It might be said that where budgets of the previous governments have had as much common sense as rain in the Sahara, this budget and Treasurer have refreshingly rained down on the people of this province with responsibility, understanding and sensitivity.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Are there questions and comments?

**Mr. Gregory:** I do not know whether my points are questions or comments. I am truly amazed at the words of my colleague the member for Mississauga North. He expresses great admiration for the budget and all that is new in it. While talking about all the new things it does, he recites a litany of things that were happening before. I am not sure the member is totally familiar with what went on in government before. Obviously he did not like it, whatever it was, even though he does not know anything about it.

He talks about the great new benefits for small business. From what I can determine from the budget, the new government is going to sit around and talk about small business. That is its way of helping it. There is not much mentioned other than that. The member does not seem to be aware of the concrete things done by the former government in the way of actual tax holidays to assist small business. The previous government gave financial help over a period of many years, but the member does not agree with that. I wish he would stand up on his feet and tell small business in Mississauga he does not agree with it. It was a good program. I will remember that, and I will make it a point to get him on television some time doing just that.

The member for Mississauga North seems to have forgotten the great new innovation that he talks about for help for small business. The large part of it and the only monetary part of it was the small business development corporations program, which he did not add any new money to. All he did was expand the terms of reference of the SBDC program and add nothing to it at all. He did not add to the budget. He did not even increase the amount of money we had allocated for the different segments of the province.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Your time has expired.

**Mr. Gregory:** Just as well, sir.

**Mr. Mancini:** I wish to compliment my colleague the member for Mississauga North for the fine speech he made in regard to the budget. I also want to inform my colleague the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) that his current leader, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), campaigned and made statements prior to the first leadership convention in regard to the tax holiday mentioned by my colleague the member for Mississauga North.

The current Conservative leader stated emphatically that he was opposed to this particular tax holiday, although it was supported by the then Premier, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller). The current Leader of the Opposition stated very clearly that he opposed the tax holiday that had been instituted by the previous Conservative government. This government has carried on the tax holiday for new businesses that are being created.

**The Deputy Speaker:** If there are no other questions or comments, is there a reply from the member for Mississauga North?

**Mr. Offer:** Yes. It is a pleasure to have an opportunity to reply under the new rules. I take



note of the comments made by the member for Mississauga East. It is a shame the great Credit River of Mississauga does not run through his riding. He seems to be typical of some of the salmon that continually run upstream at this time of year. He is continuing to go the wrong way down a one-way street.

The member for Mississauga East has indicated he has seen no visible, tangible benefit in this budget for the small business sector. Unfortunately, the member has not read page 7 of the budget, which indicates the new ventures program will provide, for the first time, tangible, hard help for the small business entrepreneurs of this province. When the member was on the government side, that was something he could not think of. He could not envisage that this help would be forthcoming. This government has responded in the most tangible way and has been applauded by many organizations throughout this province with respect to that program.

There has been some comment from members opposite saying this budget is a soap opera version of the Liberal Search for Tomorrow. I assure the member it is more like *The Young and the Restless* having *Days of Our Lives* and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) being our Guiding Light.

**4 p.m.**

**Mrs. Marland:** It is a privilege and an honour for me to represent the people who live in Mississauga South. As their member of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment on the direction and content of the Liberal government's budget, its second in one year.

Naturally, as an elected member of this Legislature, I was listening carefully when the Treasurer announced his budgetary initiatives on May 13, paying particular attention to those special measures which will impact on my constituents. I also made note of the omission in specific government initiatives which the people of Mississauga South had hoped would be forthcoming.

As the people of Ontario know full well, this Liberal-New Democratic Party coalition government inherited the stewardship of a province that has only known prosperity, largely as a result of the sound management and direction provided by the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.

There is a very real reason why Ontario is the premier province of Canada. It is in defence of this prosperity and quality of life we enjoy that I now stand in this forum to question the direction of the Treasurer's budgetary initiative, which

could detract from the prosperity we have always known.

As I turn first to the economic implications of this budget, I must admit in all candour that I was most pleased to hear the Treasurer single out the small business community as the most vital sector of this province's wealth-generating base. These comments indicate the Treasurer has taken note of the policy initiatives which my party had espoused and applied and which are the reasons for this province's standing today as a world-class industrial region.

Despite the Treasurer's good intentions, he has chosen to disregard the advice of the small business community and its concerns over this province's escalating deficit in favour of his nickel-and-dime spending spree. It is regrettable that the Treasurer is not in the House at the moment to hear these comments, which I had hoped might help him in preparing his next budget for this province.

What makes this irresponsible course of action less palatable is the fact that the Treasurer inherited a very opportune situation in which he could have addressed the deficit while causing no undue hardship on any sector in society. In times of explosive economic growth, sound economic and fiscal management calls for a course of action where moderating policy should be employed by government to try to stabilize and prolong the peaks rather than trying to cash in on them in the short term.

It is also the government's duty to try to take the personal hardships out of economic troughs by having the foresight to prepare for such turndowns and ease the effects of a recession. Instead, we have a government that has increased provincial spending at a pace unknown to any other provincial government in the post-recession era. Such action may seem acceptable in the short term, but this legacy of free spending will inevitably come home to roost, a lesson the Treasurer's colleagues at the federal level learned a short time ago.

Were this not enough, this government's actions are actually regressions and can be likened to a double-edged sword in the light of the present cost of having to deal with the deficit. This is to say the largest single expenditure in this budget that can be quantified at present, given the Treasurer's tendency to obscure expenditures in multi-year plans, is the new money that will be required to finance the provincial deficit.

This budget increases payment on the existing public debt by more than \$300 million, the largest single identified expenditure in the entire



document. Even so, the Treasurer saw no need to address the deficit other than with a meek gesture. Instead, he chose to increase expenditures by 7.4 per cent at a time when inflation is running at only 3.8 per cent.

I would also like to point out in this regard that of the three leaders in the Legislature, the only one to call for a more prudent approach to the deficit sits on this side of the Legislature. It is no coincidence that the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick was the last Treasurer who actually decreased the deficit while not increasing taxes, all of which was achieved in an economic climate far less favourable than that of today.

Despite the prosperity which has been inherited by the Liberal government of Ontario, all the Treasurer has managed to achieve is to increase the deficit by some 30 per cent during his first year in office while at the same time causing this province to lose its triple-A credit rating.

Coming back to the specific concerns of my constituents in the riding of Mississauga South, I would like to turn to some real and tangible examples of the impact of this nonspecific, multi-year, four-year, new-initiative budget that recognizes some of the needs of our economy and society but does not do enough in any one area.

In fact, when I have asked many of my constituents about their thoughts on this budget, I have heard the frequent reply, "This is the first budget that does not affect me." I find it incredible to believe that any government can increase expenditures by more than seven per cent without affecting anyone. Perhaps that is what the government should be complimented on.

This is why I believe it to be important to enumerate today those areas that should have received some spending priority, those specific areas that would have a definite positive impact on my constituents if maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in our community is, as is claimed, a priority of this budgetary initiative and of this government.

As opposition Culture critic, I have a special interest in seeing that funding is guaranteed through the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture for the many projects that are outstanding or in progress across this province and in the city of Mississauga. When I note the budget of that ministry has been increased by only some \$3 million over the spending estimates of the Progressive Conservative government in 1984, delivered during a time of restraint, I may add, I cannot help but conclude that the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro), the

minister responsible for this critical portfolio, carries very little weight in the cabinet.

A \$3-million increase in the Citizenship and Culture budget equates to 1.4 per cent. With inflation at 3.8 per cent, that is a depressing figure for the arts community and for the people of this province as a whole.

Despite her government's pronouncements that the cultural integrity and sovereignty of this province is indeed a priority, the budget of her ministry has not even kept up with the rate of inflation relative to 1984 expenditures. With the extent to which lottery capital has been used to support and promote the arts in this province, the government's announcement to open up the spending parameters previously imposed on lottery money must be of serious concern to the entire arts community in this province.

In reminding the House that it was this same ministry that reduced its own budget by some \$13 million in the area of lottery capital expenditure in 1985, I want to assure my constituents that I will continue to work hard to ensure that the new Meadowvale Theatre, the Mississauga Centre for the Arts and the Mississauga Art Gallery in the new city hall will not lose when this money is reallocated in the cabinet sweepstakes.

**4:10 p.m.**

Earlier this year, the Minister of Citizenship and Culture announced that she intended "to see that culture gets the attention it deserves as an economic development priority." I wholly support this direction. I only wish it had been more than just a statement by the minister and could have become a reality.

Contrast this statement with the announcement by the Treasurer of an additional \$10 million to provide incentives for fund-raising efforts and to improve the financial strength of Ontario's arts organizations, and members will see that this small amount indicates the Treasurer and the minister do not share the same or similar concerns. This paltry \$10 million is also to be spread out over a four-year period with no specific designation. The needs of TVOntario alone cannot be met with a mere \$2.5 million for the upcoming year, let alone all the other objectives this money is to fulfil.

Nowhere in this budget is the minister's commitment to recognizing culture as a sunrise industry reflected either. Ontario will not have an arts industry if we do not ensure that an educational infrastructure is in place to provide a comprehensive skills training program in all arts disciplines. This is a matter that has been brought to the minister's attention by those involved in



our community college system and by our arts council, and it is something the minister promised to discuss with the Treasurer and with the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway). This was after I had asked her this question earlier this year while reviewing her ministry's estimates of expenditures.

This budget does little to indicate that the Treasurer paid any attention. I might add here, as my colleagues have already stated, that education does not appear to be a concern of this government, as is evidenced by the modest increases in financing, leaving Ontario the lowest per capita spender on post-secondary education in Canada.

Many of the residents in Mississauga South have experienced an increase in their property taxes this year as a result of our city council's decision to go to market value assessment. Therefore, we in our constituency are painfully aware of the increasing costs of public services provided by municipal government and of the increasing constraints placed on the flexibility with which these precious tax dollars can be allocated.

No matter how fantastic a job Mayor Hazel McCallion is able to do, along with the members of the Mississauga council, who are all very responsible elected officers of the corporation of the city of Mississauga, it is impossible for them to try to balance the needs of the municipality with the funding that currently is available from the province without adding an even greater burden to the property tax base.

We also find ourselves in a very special circumstance resulting from the astronomical rate of growth that our city and our region are experiencing. Mississauga now has 370,000 people, and it is the fastest-growing city in Canada. As we grow, our tax dollars are spent prudently, but necessarily, on providing those costly services that must exist to ensure a quality of life in our community that is the envy of all others.

Mississauga is now a major urban centre and shares the same inner-city concerns and problems as those present in venues like Toronto and Montreal. These inner-city concerns result in higher costs in social services and in other areas such as policing. Vital services in older-established neighbourhoods and existing public services and buildings must be maintained at an appreciable cost now or at an even higher cost in the future.

The burden of this cost increasingly falls on the municipality and the region because the

provincial government is not living up to its cost-sharing responsibilities. The government's own April publication of Energy Ontario carried an article warning of the serious repercussions that will follow if maintenance does not also become a priority. This matter has been repeatedly brought to the Liberal government's attention by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Yet, obviously lacking the political will and more concerned with engendering the greatest amount of publicity for every dollar spent, the Treasurer has not seen fit to address municipal transfer payments for conditional grants. Worse, he has asked municipal governments to wait until November to hear what he has in mind. The result of this nondecision will be more significant than the nonimpact of all the Treasurer's other decisions combined.

For example, in the region of Peel, of which the riding of Mississauga South is a part, the five-year budget for reconstruction of roads amounts to some \$40 million, \$8 million of which will be covered by the federal government and surrounding municipalities. Of the remaining \$32 million, only 28 per cent will be covered by the province instead of 50 per cent, which was the practice in the past. This will result in an inevitable delay and higher costs.

In 1981, Ontario provided some \$2.1 million in funding to assist the region of Peel with its total road reconstruction and resurfacing budget of \$63.5 million. Today, in 1986, the province is still providing only \$2.1 million to assist the region with its budget of some \$81.1 million. That is a drop of almost 50 per cent in real terms.

To exemplify even better what has happened over the years because of the significant reduction in cost sharing, today there are 62 kilometres of roadway in the region of Peel already designated as deficient. Over the next five years an additional 51 kilometres of roadway will become deficient, based on usage and growth patterns. Given the smaller piece of the pie the local government has to work with, however, we can afford to upgrade only 34 kilometres of roadway within that five-year period. At the end of the five years, 79 kilometres of roadway in the region of Peel will be deficient. One step forward, two steps back.

I remind the taxpayers of my riding that this same Liberal government collected an additional \$240 million in gasoline taxes. What better time to make this commitment than when our province is experiencing increased industrial growth and the provincial Treasury is no longer empty.



Some weeks ago I wrote to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) in support of an application for funding of Peel Aftercare Resources. This is an organization aimed at preventing rehospitalization and facilitating the reintegration of the psychiatrically ill. This organization is not only performing a special service for our community but also saving the provincial Treasury an estimated \$250,000 in hospital costs by providing community-based services.

**4:20 p.m.**

Organizations such as this, as the minister knows, represent the leading edge in health care initiatives in this province and a system of medical care to which we should be returning. The Minister of Health responded with his assurance that this funding request would be examined within the context of the upcoming budgetary considerations. Again, although there is nothing specific to indicate in the \$850 million earmarked for health care in this province that this funding will be forthcoming, I hope it will be reflected in the more detailed estimates of that ministry.

I have shared with the rest of the knowledgeable people of this province the real concern that, after all the Liberal rhetoric about health care, we have ended up with a budget giving \$840 million for capital building over the next five to eight years. Even if it is only over five years, that is \$170 million per year and we are currently spending \$168 million per year. One cannot get very excited at a difference of \$2 million, recognizing that does not even keep up with inflation.

None of these revenues seems to be transferred into maintaining or rehabilitating our residential infrastructure. Motorists across this province have been petitioning the Treasurer to reduce the tax on gasoline, in view of the declining cost of oil. Some 200 of my constituents have written to me on this issue. The Treasurer did not seem to hear them either.

In Mississauga South, we have a water quality problem. Some of the water lines in my riding date back to 1909, and although these outdated lines do not pose a health problem, the iron piping causes significant discoloration of the water. As every municipality in Canada knows, the cost of upgrading, whether to replace or coat these pipes, is phenomenally high. The estimated cost of replacing this system in my riding alone is almost \$50 million. Again, I remind property taxpayers that Ontario does not have a cost-sharing agreement with the municipalities to cover the cost of rehabilitating water and sewage

systems. Given the favourable state of the provincial Treasury, this would have been an opportune time to address this funding void.

On a related matter, the region of Peel, serving the constituency of Mississauga South, is still waiting for some 297 chronic care beds in extended care facilities. These beds were allocated in April 1985. The funding has not followed. The Treasurer has not answered this question in his statement either.

That there is not one new housing development in this budgetary statement is disturbing. We have a housing crisis in this province, albeit it has been with us for a number of years since the inflation of the 1970s and the high interest rates of the 1980s. However, here again, because of the special nature of our city and our unprecedented growth, our need for nonprofit housing is tremendous. This is compounded by the fact that we did not enter into this era of crisis with an existing base supply of assisted housing for our poor, our disabled, our elderly or our ill.

The Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp. is appreciative of the 300 additional units it received this year. However, I want to point out that 800 were requested. There is no indication in this budget that the balance will be forthcoming. There are some 2,300 needy families on the waiting list. To emphasize the significance of the size of this waiting list, the turnover rate on these units is less than one per cent each year, a figure which compares with that of any city in this country in its urgency.

On another subject, day care, there are thousands of young, middle-income families in Mississauga South who I am sure remember the election promises of the Liberal Party, promising an enlightened day care policy. These are the same middle-income families who are disproportionately burdened by the Treasurer's three per cent surtax on taxable incomes announced in the October budget. These same families have now been told this interim measure will not be lifted. Those whose day care costs are not subsidized pay as much as \$5,000 per child in day care costs alone each year, yet only \$2,000 of this expense is tax deductible. We have not seen the progressive or enlightened day care policies of this government to date. Overtaxing our middle-income families only further erodes the quality of life both parents must work so hard to attain. It creates an even greater burden for the single parent.

Before leaving this topic—this is of special concern to the family and of importance to women in particular—I want to mention the need



for additional shelters for the victims of family violence in Mississauga and, in fact, for the region of Peel. Currently, the entire region of Peel, which has a population coming up to 600,000 people, has one shelter. On May 1, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) reiterated his government's commitment to ensure that "the right of women and the family to a safe home environment free from family violence that threatens too many women is protected." This is a special priority of every party represented in this Legislature.

Currently, Interim Place in Mississauga is the only hostel of such a type in the region of Peel. For every family that can be accommodated, two are turned away. In a region such as Mississauga this statistic can only be worsening. There is a desperate need for money to address this need. The May 13 statement of the Treasurer did not reflect the Attorney General's concerns. No new money has been made available to help fund these projects. Each week I hear of more mothers who cannot get into Interim Place and of those in Interim Place who cannot get out because of a shortage of affordable housing.

I mentioned earlier my concern for the direction the structure of funding takes with respect to our health care system, that we must direct our energy and revenue at promoting community-oriented services for the ill and the elderly. In short, we must be prepared to respond to our changing needs and newly identified problems.

As the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) knows, his ministry currently does not assist in providing funds for counselling services for the children of violent homes or for the fathers who cannot understand or break with their long-established behavioural patterns. When we consider that between one third and one half of the families who use Interim Place go back to their homes and attempt to reunite their families, it obviously highlights the need for counselling of all family members and the inadequacy of the present structure of funding.

Unless the commitment to ensuring the rights of the victims and to ensuring the fostering of new understanding for the perpetrators of these violent acts is complete, I wonder whether here again we are not taking one step forward and two steps back. I hope the Minister of Community and Social Services is listening.

As well, I hope all members of the Liberal government have paid particular attention to the concerns of my constituents in Mississauga

South and to the concerns of the people in Ontario as a whole. These are the same concerns shared in a general way by every member of this Legislature. I hope they will be reflected in the detailed estimates of the various ministries of this province.

**Mr. Speaker:** I understand the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) would like to ask a question or make comments for up to two minutes.

**Mr. Martel:** No. My friend wants to ask a question.

**Mr. Callahan:** When I spoke on the budget, my friend the member for Mississauga South suggested I speak about Brampton. I am going to speak about Brampton now.

My friend has nothing but negative comments to make about the \$850 million this sensitive government has put forward to deal with the question of hospitals and medical facilities. As a member of the city council of Brampton, I waited for eight years for the most important person in the previous government to make an announcement about a hospital for the people in my community, and not one word was said.

**4:30 p.m.**

All I have to say to the member for Mississauga South is that while Mississauga was getting all the money directed down there to create all sorts of hospitals so that it had no difficulties, the people of Brampton, a city that was increasing dramatically in size to the same degree as Mississauga, were being denied that right. We had people waiting five and six hours in our emergency departments.

Was that the role of a sensitive government? Was that the role of a riding that had the Premier representing it? I can say right now that if the Premier in the previous government, which was there for 42 years and probably will not be back for another 42, had taken steps to look after the hospital facilities in Brampton, I probably would have hung up my shoes and would not be here today.

One of the indicia of this government is sensitivity. It is not going around the province proclaiming, "We will create a hospital here, we will create an arena there." It is doing it. It is putting the money where its mouth is. I suggest that the member for Mississauga South speaks of a situation she does not know much about.

In addition, she objects to the fact that lottery funds are being directed towards hospital services. I applaud that move. The minister in charge was very sensitive in doing that. The previous



Tory government would pop into a riding and say, "Hey, guy, we have to get re-elected; you must need a new arena or a park," and it would allocate the money. I am pleased to see that change.

**Hon. Ms. Munro:** I would like to reply to some of the comments made by the honourable member in the area of support for the arts and culture. One of the major programs we introduced was entitled Investing in the Arts, which we believe is an innovative, creative way in which we will be able to respond to the public and private sectors in moving towards deficit funding. This will free small and medium-sized theatre groups from worrying about their increased deficit and will allow them to continue operating.

We are also continuing to stick to our policy of arm's-length funding, and we do so with the full recognition that not only the Ontario Arts Council but other agencies also are able to operate to the full degree of accountability that we ascribe to arm's-length funding.

I remind the member that, with regard to cultural industries, we are trying to shore up the economic side of culture by focusing on jobs. She mentioned the aspect of training, and we certainly are affording community-based organizations access to our program areas to make sure they acquire the necessary skills.

We feel the recent move by the Treasury on changes in lottery dedication will allow this ministry to respond more fully to the needs of cultural and multicultural organizations by allowing them to compete and to put their case forward strongly. Thus, rather than viewing the lottery dedication as a gradual deterioration of our funds, we believe it is an opportunity for us to respond.

I thank the honourable member for her comments, and I assure her that I view the superstructure of culture in this province as extremely important.

**Mr. Ward:** I was very interested in the comments of the member for Mississauga South and particularly her references to inheriting the sound financial stewardship of the previous government.

When she is reminding her constituents of that sound financial stewardship, I wonder whether she will also remind them of this province's \$600-million loss in its investment in Suncor, an investment by the previous government, its loss on unnecessary land holdings through the Ontario Land Corp. and its losses under the Urban

Transportation Development Corp., I believe \$150 million over six years.

I hope she will remind her constituents of those. I hope she will also remind her constituents that this budget has the lowest net cash requirement of any budget in this province for the past six years and that the deficit has been substantially reduced.

I was also interested in her comments about our not taking advantage of a golden opportunity to reduce further the province's deficit by restraining expenditures. I found this a little hard to swallow, particularly in the context of her other comments that related to insufficient funding, in her opinion, with regard to the transfers to municipalities and to health care.

I remind her that the health care budget has increased from \$9.8 billion in 1985 to \$10.9 billion in 1986, much of it new money for hospitals. I remind her that expenditures for colleges and universities increased by eight per cent, nearly double the level of any previous increase in the past several years. I suggest that she look carefully at that.

With regard to her comments concerning the transfer of funds to municipalities, she seems to have some difficulty with the fact that the Treasurer makes known the level of support for municipalities in November, whereas the previous government used to make it known in February, three months into the municipal fiscal year.

**Mrs. Marland:** I am gratified the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan) has finally decided to speak up on behalf of the riding he represents. Better late than never, I say.

In response to the comments of the member for Brampton about additional hospital funding, he had better look very carefully at the fact that additional funding was provided for an addition to Peel Memorial Hospital, including an allocation by the region of Peel, and that addition has never been built. That is particularly significant.

I would also like to talk to the member for Brampton about sensitivity and his extreme lack of vocabulary. When he talks about sensitivity in health care and uses the words, "Put your money where your mouth is," I would like to take him to some patients in Mississauga who hardly even have a mouth and probably will not have one now because of the outright outrage that has been forced upon the doctors of this province, in particular the forcing of Dr. Ian Munro out of our province. Because Dr. Munro is leaving this city, we will end up with young people who have tremendously disfigured faces, who otherwise



would have had a decent chance to walk into a room with no problem by the time they were teenagers.

**Mr. Callahan:** He did not go for that reason. That is a sham.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mrs. Marland:** On the subject of the lottery funding, which the Minister of Citizenship and Culture referred to, my concern was raised because in 1985 we had a \$13-million reduction in the area of lottery funding, and with the fact that lottery funds will be used for even more purposes this year, my concern is even greater.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Sudbury East.

**Mr. Martel:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Is there a quorum?

**Mr. Martel:** I do not need a quorum. Nobody listens anyway. I learned that a long time ago. One just deludes oneself if one thinks someone is going to listen, but one likes to hear the resonance of one's own voice.

I want to say a few things about this government. I am afraid my friend the member for Brampton, who was just speaking, did not look around in his riding. He did not go to the courthouse or anywhere such as that.

**Mr. Callahan:** Yes. I did.

**Mr. Martel:** Billy Davis did not forget Brampton. That has to be the greatest edifice in the province.

**Mr. Callahan:** It is totally without function.

**Mr. Martel:** It is there. I heard on the radio today about those communities that do not even have one that works. In the courthouse in Hamilton, one has to go to three different places for criminal court.

**Mr. Callahan:** One has to in Brampton too.

**Mr. Martel:** Is that not wonderful?

I have a couple of kind things I want to say about this budget. I want to tell those beggars over there that they are no different from the Tories. They really are not.

**Mr. Ferraro:** Now that hurts.

**Mr. Martel:** I am sorry. I do not want to hurt the members, but when it comes to northern Ontario, Tories and Liberals are the same. They do not know how to deal with the north because it means planning, and planning is not the strongest hand a free enterprise government has, except for giveaways. If they could give away the store, they might do it.

**4:40 p.m.**

I watched, throughout my 19 years in this place, as one-industry towns one after another closed. The Tories did not have a response. That is why I am always so amazed when I hear the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), on the half day he is in here every week, when he comes around on the odd occasion, do a little rant about what the government is not doing in Sault Ste. Marie. What did they do? What did that government do when Sudbury lost 6,000 workers at Inco and Falconbridge? Not a thing.

**Mr. Haggerty:** And Port Colborne.

**Mr. Martel:** And Port Colborne. Not a thing. It established a select committee, Bill Davis came north and he put \$600,000 into—what do they call that crazy thing? I cannot even remember any more.

**Mr. Haggerty:** The science centre?

**Mr. Martel:** No. They were going to build for the future and this great group of businessmen and labour was getting together. It was Sudbury 2001. They pumped in \$600,000 over three years where we had lost more than 6,000 jobs. Then they built a provincial building, which was needed anyway, for \$12 million or \$13 million. It created a handful of jobs for a short period of time, and since then Sudbury has declined by 15,000 people.

When the member for Cochrane South comes in here and starts wagging his finger over there saying, "You guys are not doing anything in Sault Ste. Marie," I say to myself: "What chutzpah. For a government that did nothing in one layoff after another, what chutzpah." We heard it again today with the layoffs in Timmins.

Of all people, the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) was doing his rant about disclosure and what not. I remember the select committee under his government. The day we started to write our report, which we hoped was going to have in it that plant closures had to be justified, Bill Davis called the election.

**Mr. Runciman:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to ask a question. We are supposed to be debating the budget, and this member is consistently talking about a previous government—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member has the opportunity, as all members know, to request the opportunity to ask a question.

**Mr. Martel:** I am just setting the stage. My friend heard me start out by saying there is absolutely no difference between that group over there and this group when it comes to dealing with northern Ontario, but let me get back to it.



We were on the select committee on plant shutdowns the day the then Premier called the election. We were going to start to write the recommendations about what to do about towns when companies close, walk away and forget all their social responsibilities. When we came back, the government would not reconstitute the select committee to write its report. Is that not wonderful? They had a majority; so they said, "To hell with them, let them eat cake." Here we are today.

**Mr. Ferraro:** Cop-out.

**Mr. Martel:** Now I am going to get to this government. Talk about a cop-out, I am glad the member said it. I wanted to get around to it because we have company after company making layoff announcements. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) got up today and scraped his knee when he genuflected in front of Bill James and tore the ends off his elbows when he paid homage to the great Bill James, but he did virtually nothing. A lot of prattle may get him a headline, but there is no substance. I want to talk about substance.

We have some serious problems in the north and they are not going to go away by themselves. The north has vast stores of wealth which the south has gobbled up for years. They take the raw material out of the north, whether it be from the forest or the mines, bring it to the south or send it to Europe or the United States, process it partially or not process it at all. They get it out of the ground and get it out of the forest and get it down here or somewhere else.

No one wants to interfere because if they wanted to interfere to help the north, they would have planned and done things such as crown corporations and co-ops and put together consortiums of private and public funds as they do in West Germany. When they want someone to locate next to the Russian border, they have plans in place to get growth to go where there are people. We do not have that. We have plans to bring people where there are jobs. It is never vice versa. It is the ripoff of the north.

Let me mention a couple of things this government could do. The Tories closed the Burwash institution in 1974 or 1975. The same year it opened up an institution in the riding of the then Minister of Transportation and Communications. The fourth largest employer in the Sudbury district was wiped out because of Tory patronage. They could not care less. They closed it down, having spent \$5 million in the previous two or three years and walked away from it. It is still sitting there.

Then, lo and behold, last year the Tories decided they might build a new prison in the Bruce Peninsula. They have an empty prison in the north and they may build a new one in the Bruce Peninsula.

When we changed governments, I talked to the minister responsible. He thought it was a great idea to go back and look at Burwash. He came north. He said: "It is a marvellous place. For \$13.9 million we can build an institution that would cost us \$25 million anywhere else in the province." Half the cost. There were some guttural sounds that bothered me from the deputy, such as: "It is too far. The buildings are not adequate."

I sent in a structural engineer. I said, "I want you to go and check out the buildings at Burwash to see if it is in a state of decay." There is a brand-new gym with three basketball courts that was used for six months before the Tories closed it. There is a singles quarters with 42 beds in it that has never been used. There are six shops ready for equipment. There is a Butler building bigger than this Legislature. You could put airplanes in it. It sits there not used.

The Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Keyes) said, "That is a great place." We set up a meeting with the Premier. The Premier said, "Great." What does the minister say two weeks ago? He said, "It is dead." Who got to him? I know who got to him: a guy by the name of McDonald. He is the deputy minister.

I was at the meeting when he made the presentation on behalf of the government to the mayors of the Sudbury region. He was careful. He said, "We have an institution in northern Ontario that is only 70 per cent full." I should tell members the two reasons they closed Burwash were that they did not have enough prisoners from the north and it was too far from southern Ontario; it is 200 miles.

When the deputy minister started laying it out for us, he said: "We have an institution that is only 70 per cent full. That is one reason you cannot have another prison in the north." I said: "Do you mind telling me where it is?" He said: "It is in Thunder Bay." From Sudbury, Thunder Bay is 600 miles one way. The Tories closed Burwash down originally because it was 200 miles from Toronto to Burwash. They said: "It is too far to bring anybody from the south to the north. We will bring them all from the north to the south."

He was careful. He was very careful as he laid it out for the Premier. He said: "There are not enough prisoners from northeastern Ontario, the type of prisoners that would go into Burwash, for



us to build. There are only 70 or 80 of those types in the north. We are going to bring them to the south." He did not bother to tell the Premier that in doing so they were going to have to expand. There is overcrowding now in facilities in the south. They are going to have to expand the facilities in the south to accommodate those prisoners from the north, because they do not have enough space in the south for the prisoners from the south. Is that not wonderful?

I said: "Wait a minute. Why do you not tell the Premier that you are going to expand some of the facilities in the south." He said: "That is right. We might have to expand two or three of them to meet the needs." I said: "Why does the mentality continue to be prevalent in this government, as it was with the Tories, that you can bring all the prisoners from the north to the south but you cannot take the prisoners from the south to the north?"

**4:50 p.m.**

We want to have a little bit of fair economic development, particularly at this time when unemployment is 6.24 per cent in the south and 13 per cent in the north. What do we have? Mr. McDonald, who opposed the minister, is going to have his way. We are going to continue to bring prisoners to the south rather than keep them in the north, and we can send prisoners 600 miles from Sudbury to Thunder Bay. That is what the Tories did.

One Minister of Correctional Services after another has got up in here over the past 10 years and said: "Look at what we are doing in the south. We are growing vegetables at the institutions now." Wonderful. Whoop-de-do. They had enough milk and vegetables from the Burwash farm to supply every institution in the north.

**Mr. Haggerty:** That is the way to go.

**Mr. Martel:** That is what they did. These birds tore it all down and gave it away. Now the minister, who was all in favour of it a year ago, says no. Just figure out \$13.9 million for 200 to 225 jobs. It is not a very high cost when one considers megabucks and megaprojects today. Consider the spinoff. If we make 225 jobs for an institution in Sudbury, there will be another 225 jobs in the service industry, because the figures are at least one to one.

By 1990, our welfare bill in Sudbury is going to be \$20 million. We can build and create 500 jobs for \$13.9 million. That is why I say the Liberals are no different from the Tories, not a damned bit, because they are prepared not to put a cent in the north and just keep creaming it off. That is what the Tories did. All the Tory deputy

ministers are still around insisting that the same mentality pervades over there as it did for the 42 previous years. They ought to be ashamed of themselves. They do not think any differently from the Conservatives.

I will give another example; it is a cute one. I have listened to the member for Cochrane South make statements at least twice this year about how we need people who are going to be involved in speech therapy, speech pathology and the whole business. We just hired five Americans in the Sudbury basin. I have a son who applied to Western; he was 35th on the waiting list of 600 or 700 applicants.

I wrote dozens of letters to the previous Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities, the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson), who is here this afternoon. I had a couple of arguments with her in the House, and she said: "This is a democratic system. We cannot make the students take courses they do not want to take." That is not the issue at all.

There are not enough places in the university. We are hiring five kids in the Sudbury area from the United States. My colleague the former Speaker sends his daughter to Chicago at \$16,000 a year. Three ministries have offered her jobs already, but we could not get the previous minister to say to the universities: "Look at you beggars. We need more speech pathologists. We are putting some money in; so get cracking. Let us train some more." No way; there was every type of red herring. I have heard the member for Cochrane South raise this issue twice this year.

The Tories did nothing. They did nothing for years when they could have created jobs. In areas where there is a need, they did not do a thing, and we could not interfere. The reason I started into this is that I want to spell out the next area I want to talk about.

Before I leave Burwash, the other thing we were looking at in Burwash was using the buildings that are there to get a co-op going. There is a citizens' group. There are places in Europe where co-ops provide 4,000 jobs. We have not even started to touch what co-ops could do in our society. Four thousand jobs in one co-op.

**Mr. Brandt:** Where is that?

**Mr. Martel:** Portugal.

**Mr. Brandt:** What is the unemployment rate?

**Mr. Martel:** Where?

**Mr. Brandt:** In Portugal.

**Mr. Martel:** I know what it is in northern Ontario; it is 13 per cent.



**Mr. Brandt:** It is probably higher in Portugal.

**Mr. Martel:** It is 13 per cent in the north, and we have the resources. That is the difference.

That was the problem with the Tories. The will was not there. I can make comparisons with Japan too, which does not have a resource but has all kinds of jobs. We have the resources. Those birds gave them away. That was part of the free trade program they started years ago. It gives the store away without getting anything in return.

If the government were serious, it would want to talk about co-ops in the north; it would want to find alternatives. There is a group that wants to take Burwash if the government is not going to open the prison. In fact, the group says it is prepared to go in there even if there is a prison, because there is a whole town sitting vacant.

I want to talk about a second whole town that is there in the north; it is in my riding as well. It is the radar base at Falconbridge. It is worth \$9 million; we can buy it for a buck. That is what the federal government wants for it. The province gets the first kick at the can, then the municipalities and then the private sector.

I have been meeting with the Sudbury Algoma Hospital board, which wants to start something new and imaginative. If one looks at our rate of dealing with kids in trouble with the law, our success rate is really bad. Most of the kids who get in trouble with the law have had problems in school. They are slow learners—there are a variety of problems—and they start to fail. Kids will get attention one way or the other, and when a kid does not get it because he is successful, he finds ways of getting attention and frequently starts getting into trouble.

We send them off to a variety of institutions. We can hide what they are any way we want; they are virtually jails. When we send kids to institutions such as that, they learn. They learn well. They learn to be crooked, or more crooked. We have these institutions.

We have this radar base sitting there. It has a swimming pool, a gym, a school, 125 houses; it has everything. It is a whole community. Sudbury Algoma Hospital says: "Let us start a program. When kids start to get in trouble, rather than put them away somewhere, we will have a kind of boys' academy. We can make it coeducational. We will put some psychiatrists and psychologists in there. Some teachers will teach school. We will bring in the parents, if need be, in some of the houses. We will put the whole family in a house and treat the whole family. There is no sense taking the kid out of the house, treating him in isolation and then putting him

back into the same environment. It is not going to do a thing for him. If he is a slow learner, it is going to take us a little longer. So what?"

The Treasurer said to me last year that they had to put another \$120 million into the Young Offenders Implementation Act. I say to the minister: "Give us some money. Let us try something new in the north. Let us try something new on behalf of the province. Let us try something new on behalf of kids. Rather than putting them in what is essentially a jail, no matter how you describe it, let us have a town with families, psychiatrists, psychologists and teachers in French and English."

All the facilities are there. We could have them for a buck. It might cost \$11 million? So what? We spend that on institutions, in putting them in prisons willy-nilly. Why do we not do something imaginative? Why do we not try something different? One cannot get an answer.

The budget certainly did not tell it, and we have the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney). I met with him.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** The minister of earnestness.

**5 p.m.**

**Mr. Martel:** Yes. It was just awful. The Tory bandwagon up there had strangled him. He said: "We are already doing this. We are taking people out of institutions, and you are trying to make another institution." I said: "Do you understand anything? We are talking about a radar base and moving so far away from institutional care." He said, "We have to get them in the communities they come from." I look at the backup services in the communities we have in this province, and they are worth a big fat zero.

My friends across the way are no different from the Tories.

**Mr. Epp:** The member is wrong.

**Mr. Martel:** Oh, baloney. There is an opportunity to open up Burwash and create 500 jobs for \$13 million. The government will not do it. We could do this—

**Mr. Epp:** The member can call us a lot of things, but that is not one of them.

**Mr. Martel:** I am sorry. This government is just as bad as they ever were. It does not know how to deal with the north. It is not prepared to put money in.

Why would we not try an imaginative program with a facility that is worth \$8 million or \$9 million that we can get for a buck rather than put kids in jails? The Minister of Community and Social Services was so taken to the cleaners by



his own staff that he did not know what he was talking about. He said, "We have to keep them in the community." What community? What facilities are in Toronto or in Sudbury for kids who are in trouble with the law so that we do not put them in jail if they are in serious trouble?

Why do we not try something different? Following what we have is not working now. In Canada we have the greatest rate of recidivism in the free world, and we will not try anything new. The Treasurer complains about the extra costs under the bill, \$120 million more than last year—to do what? They are going to put more kids in prison. That is why the government needs \$120 million more. We are not going to start services for kids. We are going to throw more of them in jail.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** For longer.

**Mr. Martel:** Yes, even better: for longer. This government is not any different.

I am going to continue. This is great stuff.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** We are almost as enthused as the member is about this.

**Mr. Martel:** There is another thing we wanted to do at the Royal Canadian Air Force base. Cambrian College wanted to move out there and use some of the houses in conjunction with the college. We could buy all the heavy equipment for that buck, I tell my friend the minister. We could get all the equipment that is there for a buck. Cambrian could start to teach heavy equipment operation. It would be doing something. It would have the space to do it. It would have accommodation for 200 students. Crombie—we all know him well—wants to introduce horticulture and agriculture there, and the space is there. We could do it all for a buck and we are going to let it go.

Tell me how different this government is. We could take kids who are at Cambrian working with children and they could work with these kids who are in trouble with the law, rather than put them in a jail, in this academy. We could take those young people who are learning and give them hands-on experience while they are learning.

It is too much to ask of this government to spend some money to create some jobs in the north. It puts all kinds of money into various enterprises in the south, but I cannot get it to put \$13.9 million to create 225 jobs in a prison that is sitting there empty. In fact, they do not even have a guard at Burwash any more. As of last week, the vandals could start walking in and smashing things around. There is not even a guard at the entrance any more. That would be 225 spinoff

jobs. The government could put another \$11 million into the Sudbury Algoma Hospital with all its specialists. We just got eight more psychiatrists. We could open up the radar base, get it for a buck, take the money out of the Ministry of Correctional Services—God help me, what a place to take it away from—and put it into the treatment of kids before they are in such trouble that we put them in jail.

This government is no different from the previous government. The one member I thought we might have some help from was the Minister of Community and Social Services. He was the worst of all. We drew a total blank from the minister. It was so depressing. I had a whole group of people there, and we walked out totally depressed. We got nothing but a negative response.

A number of years ago my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and I put together a paper called *A Challenge to Sudbury*. It was a good document; it stands the test of time. It is interesting. For four years my colleague and I tried to get a government interested in taking the phosphates from Cargill township and the sulphur dioxide in the form of acid from Inco and combining the two to make fertilizer. We could not get to first base with the Tories. Interestingly enough, Inco said three months ago: "We think we should do it. We should have a feasibility study. Whoop-de-do, we are on the bandwagon. We are going."

The member for Cochrane South bitterly opposed it. The previous member for Cochrane North opposed it because he said we were going to take the resources from his community and move them to Sudbury. We were better off leaving them in the ground than taking two byproducts from the north, providing jobs in the north and making fertilizer. The member for Cochrane South and the previous member for Cochrane North bitterly opposed it. We could not get an answer from the Tories.

Let me tell the members what I did. I sent the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) a copy of *A Challenge to Sudbury*. I said, "Give me a response to what you think of *A Challenge to Sudbury*." I got a letter from one of his flacks, and it was a Tory response. I am going to quote some of it for the members. It is a great letter. I will show the government how different it is. When I got the letter, I wrote the minister back and said:

"This will acknowledge receipt of your document to me dated December 5, in response to our document *A Challenge to Sudbury*. First of all,



who in your ministry prepared such a garbage reply? Indeed, three years have gone by since Floyd Laughren and I prepared the report, but little has changed in Sudbury except that 15,000 people have left the area in search of employment. Unemployment is 15 per cent."

Here is what provoked me. It says:

"I have now had an opportunity to read the document *A Challenge to Sudbury*. May I congratulate you and Floyd for the time and effort which you spent." That was nice. "Having reviewed the document and consulted with staff, I note that three years have passed since the paper was released and it occurs to me that many of the recommendations have been pursued by the regional municipality of Sudbury and the federal and provincial governments." I would like the minister to tell me one.

"For example, with regard to your proposal for a nickel institute"—that came out of the select committee report; it creates a couple of jobs, and it is here in southern Ontario—"four major mining firms have since formed a research group called Hard Rock Mining at Laurentian University as a successfully established centre in mining and mineral exploration."

The Machine Resource Centre created 19 jobs for \$19 million over five years. That is what that is. It was created by the Tories. It has not done a thing. It has not been involved in the production of mining equipment. It has not done a blessed thing.

Listen to what the Minister of Northern Development and Mines says is going on. "Since 1982, Continuous Mining System...." That is Inco. It brought that in and it is reducing the number of workers underground. If we were producing for world use, it would be one thing but it has 50 people in it. The members have to remember we had 19,000 mineworkers in Sudbury in 1972-73, and we are now down to 6,500. These are the things that are going to save us under the Liberal government.

"In another area, the region has taken great strides in becoming the health care centre for northern Ontario with the establishment of a cancer treatment centre at Laurentian Hospital." I am waiting for them to bring the shovel up. We have two doctors, and Dr. Corringham is overworked.

What else? "One important sector which has not been addressed in your paper which has become a significant contribution to the local economy is tourism." Whoop-de-do. The minimum wage is \$4 an hour for seasonal work. This

is what I get from the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** Is it only in the winters?

**Mr. Martel:** Yes, in the winter. They work only in the winter. When I get that type of response—

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** He writes the way he talks.

**Mr. Martel:** Who? Me? I do not talk very well. I do not write well either. Is that what the member is saying?

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** I thought the member had read it the way he talks.

**Mr. Martel:** No.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**5:10 p.m.**

**Mr. Martel:** Let me tell the members a couple of others. I raised the whole question of gasoline the other day. Those beggars were going to do something about gasoline. In Sudbury, I paid 46.5 cents a litre for gas. I went back a few years and dug out a question I raised in 1968.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Is it Petrocan you are buying from?

**Mr. Martel:** Just a minute; I will come to it. My friend should not throw me off.

I went back to a question I raised in this Legislature in 1968. I said to the minister then, "How come in the north we are paying a difference of five to eight cents a gallon compared to Toronto?"

**Mr. Haggerty:** I remember that. You have been saying that for 19 years.

**Mr. Martel:** That is right. We got the great conversion from gallons to litres. Does anyone know what the hell happened? It is the same difference per litre that it was per gallon. There are 4.4 litres per gallon, and at a difference of six cents per litre, it is 26.4 cents. Last Monday, I paid 26.4 cents a gallon more in Sudbury than I did the same day in Toronto. It used to be a difference of five to eight cents a gallon; now it is a difference of 25 to 30 cents a gallon.

I asked the minister what he was going to do for the north. He said, "We have a report coming." Am I ever glad we have a report coming.

The other way we got ripped off, and the Tories would do nothing about this either, was that before we converted from gallons to litres there used to be a difference of 2.5 to five cents a gallon between leaded and unleaded. What has happened since then? The spread is 2.5 cents per litre.



**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** It is three cents.

**Mr. Martel:** Three cents a litre; that is right. It is 2.5 cents to three cents a litre, which brings it to 14 cents a gallon more. Being the free enterpriser that I am, I know that the more you buy, the more you produce and make a buck; that cuts the price down, does it not? Is that not the theory? That is the theory. Now they have changed it. Being a free-enterpriser, I understand that. If you buy a lot, you produce a lot and it drives the price down. It is called competition.

We converted from gallons to litres and the difference went up to 14 cents a gallon. When we converted from gallons to litres in the north, compared to Toronto, as of last week the difference became 26.4 cents a gallon.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Yet the gallons are the same size.

**Mr. Martel:** The quantity is the same. It is just that we applied the difference that used to be in gallons to litres. There is not a government that has enough—

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** Gumption.

**Mr. Martel:** Gumption; I was going to say something else that was not printable. The Tories did not have the guts to do it and neither do they. They are apologists. Somebody over there should tell me the difference. They shake their heads. Somebody should tell me why I am paying a difference of 26.4 cents a gallon.

**Mr. Ferraro:** It is the feds.

**Mr. Martel:** Do not tell me it is the feds. Put it in your ear; it is not the feds. We have the power to enforce it here. Those guys do not have the courage. They let me and my people in northern Ontario get ripped off by 28 to 30 cents a gallon just as the Tories did. They do not have the courage, nor did the others, to say, "Roll it back." That is another thing. As we go through this wonderful budget of the Liberals, as I said, it is no different from the Tories'.

Let me give another one. We have a problem with hospitals and a shortage of beds. The budget promises \$850 million for capital construction across Ontario.

[Applause]

**Mr. Martel:** I do not know whether you will clap on the next one, Billy. Northern Ontario has 10 per cent of the population. Do you know what our share is, Billy, in your budget for hospital capital construction? It is three per cent. Tell me why.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. I have gone on a long time allowing names to be used and so on,

but when we get down to first names that is too far. I ask the member for Sudbury East to refer to other members by the names of their ridings.

**Mr. Brandt:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Before the member for Sudbury East continues, we are having some difficulty attempting to identify Billy.

**The Deputy Speaker:** That is not an appropriate point of order.

**Mr. Martel:** I apologize for calling the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) "Billy." His name is Russell.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** You should have called him "Russ."

**Mr. Martel:** I should have called him "Russ." I will call him by his riding. He is the member for Windsor—which Windsor is it?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** Sandwich.

**Mr. Martel:** Windsor-Sandwich. My friend the minister clapped when I said \$850 million. He should tell me why northern Ontario's share of the capital construction is going to be only three per cent. I wish the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) would not distract the minister, because I know he wants to answer this. He was so happy about the \$850 million. I want to know why, with 10 per cent of the population, we are getting only three per cent of the capital construction money.

**Mr. Ferraro:** Does it have to do with the bank?

**Mr. Martel:** Yes, I am coming to that. I am glad the member for Wellington South (Mr. Ferraro) asked. I thought he would not, but I am glad he did.

We have shortages in chronic and acute beds in the north. There are going to be 3,200 chronic beds and 1,350 acute beds out of that budget. In the north, we are going to get 176 chronic beds and 34 acute beds out of the budget. Using the ministry's own formula, our need in the city of Sudbury alone is for 105 chronic beds, and we are going to get 176 in the whole of northern Ontario over five years. If the need is there, perhaps my friend can tell me how they are different from the Tories when they give us three per cent of the budget for capital construction.

**Mr. Ferraro:** I waited 20 years for a hospital in my riding.

**Mr. Martel:** The member cannot change the subject. He is trying to digress. The issue is that southern Ontario is getting 97 per cent of the budget with 90 per cent of the population.

**Mr. Ferraro:** Talk per capita needs.



**Mr. Martel:** Per capita.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** That is what he is talking about.

**Mr. Martel:** That is what I am talking about. I thought it was what I was talking about. Maybe I was not very clear. Does the member want me to repeat it for him?

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** Start again.

**Mr. Martel:** I will start again so he will get it. We have 10 per cent of the population. Does the member for Wellington South get that? He should write it down: 10 per cent.

**Mr. Brandt:** Is this going to be a tough question?

**Mr. Martel:** It is tough. He is a slow learner. One really has to work with him. Out of that we are getting three per cent of the total budget. Why should the south, with 90 per cent of the population, get 97 per cent of the allocation? That is not too difficult, is it? We have greater shortages than my friend does. We do not have a cancer centre yet. It is a 30-minute or 40-minute drive from his area to Toronto for someone to come for treatment.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** Only if he drives like you do.

**Mr. Martel:** If he drives like me; that is why I gave him 40 minutes.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** It is an hour for him.

**Mr. Martel:** Maybe it would take him an hour. We do not have one in the north. We have a couple of oncologists at last. They already have patients we thought we were going to have by the year 2001. They have them already and no facilities. He should tell me whether we have needs. At Laurentian Hospital we just closed the sector for speech pathology for kids. We do not have the specialists.

**Mr. Ferraro:** Neither do we.

**Mr. Martel:** The member has a lot more than we have. There are not enough therapists for physiotherapy. One can go right down the list, and the government gives us three per cent of the budget.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** And Sudbury is better served than most of the north.

**Mr. Martel:** That is right. We are better served than most of the north because we have become a service centre to some degree.

**5:20 p.m.**

The other thing I want to talk about briefly is market value assessment. The region recently asked for market value assessment because we

are going down the tube in the north with taxes. In Willowdale, a friend of mine has a four-bedroom house and he pays \$1,800 a year. I live in the boonies in northern Ontario in a town of 4,000 in a four-bedroom house and my tax is \$1,980.

**Mr. Ferraro:** How come?

**Mr. Martel:** How come? The reason is easy. We have never got a fair return from mining revenues. None of the northern municipalities, whether they rely on the forest industry or on the mining industry, has ever got sufficient returns from either of those to have a tax level comparable to anywhere else in the province. We have never been able to get the previous government to deal with it seriously.

All mining municipalities and all municipalities that rely on the forest industry do not get enough back because it is beyond the confines of their towns, so they have to make it all up with residential assessments. That is not difficult for us in the north to know. The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) is well aware of that. Just ask any member from the north.

Our municipalities decided they had to go and get assessed this year. Going for a regional assessment, the assessment levels out to some degree, but it creates another whole host of problems at the same time that did not exist before. My friend shakes his head, but it does. I have a lovely old fellow I worked with in 1953 as a machinist. He has a house that might sell for \$10,000. He has 146 acres of swamp. He does not have a service; not one. His taxes went from \$349 to \$1,200 in one year.

**Mr. Offer:** The local municipality could defer.

**Mr. Martel:** No, they do not have the right yet.

**Mr. Offer:** The local municipality can meet that problem.

**Mr. Martel:** How? We are going to be meeting with the deputy shortly. The real problem is not market value assessment, although it creates some inequities. The ministry has to establish a new criterion in that designation, whether for residential or commercial. I am no great tax expert, but all these people who spend all kinds of time in the mines have cottages without a service, and every last one's tax bill doubled just like that. The government bought them off. It threw out a little sop, \$7 million over three years. What happens at the end of three years when the \$7 million runs out and they have



to make it up and they do not have any base to work from?

In the north, we have to get a greater return from mining and from the pulp and paper industry from the taxes they pay locally or in Toronto, or we are going to find in most of northern Ontario that we are assessed far more for residential assessments than anywhere else in the province. I believe Sudbury is the second-highest-taxed city in the province in terms of residential taxation.

Unless we get a greater return, the towns that support the pulp and paper industry and the mining industry are going to see their residents paying tremendously high taxes, much higher than in comparable communities. As I said, I compared my taxes with those of a friend who lives in Willowdale. He has a four-bedroom house, and I have a four-bedroom house. He pays \$1,800 here, and I pay \$1,980 in the town of Capreol in northern Ontario. There is something wrong.

I remind members that in the first election I was in 1967, one of the key issues was market value assessment, and the Tories were going to fix her all up. They did not do a thing.

I said to the Treasurer yesterday, "I hope you have some money." He said, "I have no more money." I do not want any more money directly from the province, but governments have to realize that one-industry towns based on resources do not have the tax base to support community services without ripping off the people to death. With mining, one cannot assess underground, and the whole mine is being moved underground. One cannot tax the equipment or anything. All one can do is tax the bloody buildings, and what does one get from a couple of buildings? We have to get a return of the resources that come out of here.

Lastly, I want to talk about a subject that breaks my heart. I picked up the paper the other day and I read this horrendous headline. Let me dig it out. When I see these things I shudder. It says, "Parents Bear No Grudges as Check Breaks Son's Neck." Since 1972, with Pat Reid, I have tried to get governments to respond to the ravages of hockey. It is a game I played and know a fair amount about, and for which our society has gone absolutely nuts.

Dr. Charles Tator, in his most recent report on spinal injuries, states that we have had 88 spinal injuries in Canada since 1977. The spinal injuries were not just to boys; there are four females now. There were 88 kids with spinal injuries in one

sport. Does that sound like a sport? Virtually all of them have been since 1977.

Out of that group there are 40, I believe—I want to be careful, because I do not want to stretch the figure so that someone says I am doing it deliberately; I have the precise numbers—40 young men who have been rendered quadriplegic as a result of hockey injuries during the past eight years. Can members imagine? Forty quadriplegics in eight years.

Do members know what the cost is for a lifetime? It costs more than \$1 million, Dr. Tator says, to look after a youth who has been so damaged, if I may use that term. It is not even the money that bothers me. A life is virtually wiped out.

**5:30 p.m.**

We know as a society how most of those occur. That was the tragedy to read this story. The mother said, "If I had only known." His parents steadfastly described the son's injury as an accident. That is not true. It was accidental but we know this boy was hit from behind. We know from Dr. Charles Tator's studies that where quadriplegia has occurred, 22 had been hit from behind.

I tried to get the Tories to change it. All they did was to take a poll which showed that 55 per cent of the people agreed hockey was too violent. Only two per cent said government should intervene; so their decision was to do nothing. We have 40 youngsters who are quadriplegic, 22 of whom were hit from behind.

It is not a sport to hit someone from behind. I know something about this game. Tell me what is sporting about running at some kid who has his head down in the corner and hitting him from behind? If someone can tell me where the sport is in that, or where there is anything about that in hockey, I will sit down and shut up. But it is not there. It is not part of our game. We have decided that winning can be done at any cost.

My friend at the back can shake his head. I am going to go through a whole series. I am glad he is here. Another 16 who have spinal injuries were pushed or checked, another 16 were hurt by sliding into the boards and so on. Let me tell my friend who shakes his head that there is something totally obscene about what is going on.

By the way, Dr. Charles Tator also indicates in his report that there have been 54 spinal injuries from diving as well. One wonders whether we are crazy in this society of ours. There are 500 spinal injuries a year, many of them from sports. I ask myself why this is going on.



**Mr. Offer:** And the eyes.

**Mr. Martel:** They have cut down on eye injuries. Since Dr. Tom Pashby put the face mask on, the only people who are losing their eyes now are adults who are playing in commercial leagues and are too macho to put on a face mask. They have reduced it from more than 250 eye accidents a year to fewer than 50, according to Dr. Pashby, with whom I had the pleasure of spending some time. There are reasons for this.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Right at the coaching level.

**Mr. Martel:** That is correct. Everyone wants to blame the referee. I do not. I blame the coaches. As a teacher, if I had that many sports accidents in a school, the lawsuits would be unending. If a kid came home with a broken shoulder from getting hurt at school, one would have a lawsuit on one's hands.

Let me put it in some perspective. Part of the reason is that we have developed this attitude that one wins and one wins at all costs. It does not matter what one has to do to win, one wins. One watches it in the National Hockey League.

**Mr. Haggerty:** One just has to watch the Stanley Cup playoffs.

**Mr. Martel:** That is correct. Why? We are not dealing with little men. We are dealing with boys; girls; kids 12, 13, 14 and 15 years of age. Why do we encourage that sort of nonsense, that brutality? Has anybody followed it this winter? There have been more sports accidents this winter, more hockey accidents. Even in high school they have had to call off whole series this year. They have had to call off the playoffs. They could not finish the series because of the fights. That is sport.

My idea is to take kids out and teach them some skills and how to compete with one another and enjoy themselves. If you win, that is a plus. The real pleasure should be teaching kids how to enjoy and develop skills in shooting, skating and passing. That is what it is about.

**Mr. Haggerty:** About \$400 in safety equipment for hockey and they still have injuries.

**Mr. Martel:** My friend is right; we keep loading them down. I was reading the paper. There is such a difference in the same Toronto Star. Lois Kalshman is writing. She is a great writer. She interviewed some parents on the number of accidents. This is on the sports page. I will come back to the other page. The irony is delicious. Here is what parents with nine-year-olds and 10-year-olds and what coaches are saying.

The article says: "Size differential and lack of instructions are major reasons cited for the injuries. Players 12 and 13 can vary by 100 pounds. Coach Jim Gray of Don Mills Flyers, minor peewees in the MTHL major series, contends, 'When the Soviet Union beat Canada in 1979, the CAHA's reaction was to take out bodychecking to help our young players develop their skills.'" That was to their credit. He goes on. "'What they should have demanded was the upgrading of coaches. That is only now taking place. I have never had a year when I have seen so many broken bones. Most have occurred after a check.'" "

There is a solution to that. It says one cannot have body contact until a certain age and one cannot use the stick as a weapon on somebody's body.

Here is another coach, a real winner. "Flynn says, 'I am teaching boys of 12 what they should have learned at nine. Bodychecking should be in all the way.'" Man, oh man, the old macho. Get it in at eight or nine. They cannot even stand up and skate properly, but get them hitting sooner. That will end it, because when they have that first year in they will be used to it.

What do doctors such as Dr. Charles Tator say? They say, "Wait a minute. Muscularly, the kids are not ready for that type of bodily contact." What does that matter? We will teach them early. We will teach them young to be tough so they can resist it. We are mad.

These guys go on. "Paul O'Neill, coach of OMHA's King City peewees says he has several players hurt this season as a result of checks. O'Neill candidly says he discouraged his son, Don, a five-foot-11 1/2-inch, 185-pound 13-year-old from bodychecking because he is so much bigger than his opponents." That is the attitude. Teach them young enough to hit them.

Then there is Jim Proudfoot on the same page. His article says, "NHL Allows Violence Because It Sells." Is that not putting it nicely? We have all these crazy coaches saying: "That is what we have to have. We have to have violence to sell."

Have the members watched the Russians when they come here and play the Canadians? One cannot get near the arena. Why? It is a game of skill. Watch the clowns, junior B or junior A, and they have the stick work and are running at each other. One could not get away on the streets of Toronto or Sudbury or anywhere else with what they get away with in an arena.

Proudfoot has it right. When one hears the coaches saying, "We have to copy the NHL," what they are saying is that we have to have



goonism, because otherwise parents will not go to the arena.

**5:40 p.m.**

**Mr. Haggerty:** Look what they did to Ted Kennedy and Bobby Orr; they chopped their legs off.

**Mr. Martel:** Yes. If that is what NHL hockey is all about, why do we have coaches saying we have to teach bodychecking early and we have to teach them to run at each other and beat each other with a stick, because that sells? I thought we were there so kids could have fun, develop skills and develop camaraderie. If somebody won because he was a better coach and happened to have better players, that was a plus for a year.

It was in the same copy of the Toronto Star. Imagine this other gobbledegook: "Is 12 the Age to Start Hitting? Injury Toll Raises Painful Doubts." I have never had any doubt about sending kids out to hit each other deliberately. I have never had any illusions that it was all right. I have said for years that it was all wrong.

It is easy for some stupid man to send a bunch of 12-year-olds out to kill each other. Have members ever asked themselves why so many kids have left hockey? They have a double arena in my town. We do not even have a house league any more. Why? Kids are saying: "What the hell. This is not sport. This is mayhem." We have adults sending kids out to hammer each other, and we put up with it.

Last year, when I put the hockey report out, my assistant said to me, "You are neurotic about this." Carmen's son played his first year of body contact, and by November he was in the hospital. He was a good little hockey player, scoring goals left, right and centre. What happened? They put the thug out to get him. He had a shoulder break up this way, through that part of the bone—not across the top.

I am not a doctor. I am sure my friend down the aisle could tell me. His shoulder was broken upward. His doctor said it was one of the worst breaks he had ever seen. A 14-year-old kid is sent out there and somebody is hammering the hell out of him. He ran at him from all over the ice.

Carmen goes to the meeting. The executive of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association in the district said she was just a neurotic mother. That is the way one gets rid of it: "You are just a neurotic mother."

I am not sure who is neurotic. In fact, I am not sure who is crazy, but we have to start teaching attitudes. Those people who are going to deal with kids have to deal with kids as though they were kids and not little adults. They have to be

healthy and wholesome attitudes. Everybody who does not have that should be out of coaching. It has to stop.

I do not care whether the government has to take on every league in this province. We have a responsibility to protect the health of those kids. When we have 88 spinal injuries in eight years, we are lacking in courage. That we allow it to happen is a disgrace.

When coaches tell me there are more accidents this year than have been seen in years and they start dithering about the age level at which we should allow them to hit, I will tell members part of the reason. A year ago they sneaked in an extra year and reduced it by one year. The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association was clever. It reduced the age in which bodily contact is started by a year. We had finally got rid of it to age 12. What one does is change the designation around a little and get it in a year earlier.

There is no age until the kid's body is ready to absorb the impact. Bodychecking is a skill just like any other skill, and one has to wait until the kids are ready to develop that skill. One can develop it only when the body is muscularly ready to absorb the impact.

**Mr. Haggerty:** They have to learn to skate.

**Mr. Martel:** That is correct. They have to learn to skate and all the other skills. As Carl Brewer says to me, "Look, 16 is soon enough."

I want to tell members why all the stick work and hitting from the rear is there. Ninety per cent of the coaches cannot teach a kid how to bodycheck, because they do not know how to do it themselves. They say to the kid, "Go out there and get them." The kid runs out there, and he hits them. The stick is here and the stick is there; it is in the groin, and it is everywhere. Most of them cannot teach a good check or a shoulder check, and they are telling kids to do it.

That is why it should be at around 15 or 16 years old. We might have enough people at that level who are dealing with kids and can teach them how to do it properly. Until we get rid of that nonsense, we will continue to have the constant stickwork. That is where the damage to kids is coming in.

As I prepare to take my seat, I say as I did last week when I wound up on occupational health, that I hope some day before I leave this zoo—those were the words I used—we will see a government that has the courage to say: "We will not tolerate young kids being injured because coaches think they have to sell hockey and the only way they know how in the NHL is through



violence. We will have enough courage to say we are not putting up with it.”

I do not care whether all the coaches quit, quite frankly. It might be the best thing for hockey if half of them were to quit and we brought in some new people with some new attitudes. There are a lot of bright young people out there who would like a chance, if we were prepared to help them to develop their skills through coaching clinics with proper attitudes and so on.

There have been five task force reports in the past 10 or 12 years, and nothing has happened. It does not matter whether it was the minor report I did or the one done by Dr. Barry McPherson of the University of Waterloo. It does not matter whether it was a report done by Judge Neri and Regan or Bill McMurtry's study. They have all been there. We have not yet had the courage to act. I hope that will happen before many more children are hurt by wanton, useless acts of violence in a game that is supposed to be a sport, not goonism.

**Mr. Haggerty:** The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) has provoked me to respond. I made some notes, particularly about the Burwash property in the Sudbury basin.

I have listened to the member's comments over a number of years, and on this side anyway, he has me convinced he is correct about what should be done with the Burwash farm. Some of the suggestions he made included providing it as a correctional institution or a centre for young offenders. There is a good possibility that site could still be used in that capacity as a rehabilitation centre for young offenders. There is a good opportunity there, particularly with the mining sector up there, for these youngsters to get out and get into the area of basic machine-shop training that is needed in the northern part of Ontario.

Some of the area that could be used is good agricultural land. He made a good point that is not new. It is something that has been used successfully on the American side in the penal institutions and correctional services. Where there is good agricultural land, it can be used very productively to supply food and milk to other institutions such as hospitals. It is part of a rehabilitation program.

**5:50 p.m.**

With regard to another area he talked about, I think particularly of the not-too-good success the previous government had in reforestation of the lands in northwestern and northeastern Ontario. That complex of land would be an excellent place for a new seeding operation for reforestation.

New plants and new trees could be grown in that area instead, and some greenhouses could be built in other parts. It could be farmed out to the private sector. It could be done in that place and could provide an excellent opportunity for rehabilitation and job opportunities that are required in the north. I support him.

In the matter of the area—

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. Haggerty:** I did my best.

**Mr. Ferraro:** I agree with much of what the member for Sudbury East has said today, particularly on hockey. Where I have some difficulty, and he knows better than I as he expounds on the severe problems of unemployment in the north, is that it is my understanding that private enterprise is the solution to the problem. The reality is, in my understanding, that they do not want to go to the north.

Being the strong free-enterpriser that I am—

**Mr. Runciman:** The member is in the wrong party.

**Mr. Ferraro:** —save and except on some issues, and I know the member is referring to extra billing, I know the member in his anger does not want to give the appearance that he is angry that the south is so prosperous. I suspect he is probably angry that he has not had the same degree of success in the north.

The specific question I want to ask the member, just so I understand him correctly, is whether the solution, as far as he and his party are concerned, is a philosophical one in that the only solution, and the only one I can think of, is more government involvement in private enterprise. If that is the solution, then it is going to be very difficult, bearing in mind the philosophies of our party and the Tory party. Indeed, there are going to be frustrating days ahead for the member for Sudbury East.

I want to be perfectly clear whether that is the solution, because I think the government's solutions—Burwash and hospital funding—are minuscule when one considers the overall problems in the north. The real solution is to get private enterprise up there. We can do incentives, but if it means direct government involvement, it is going to be an extremely rocky road.

**Mr. Martel:** To respond to my friend, it is a combination of many ways of doing it. For example, the private sector in Sudbury has had an opportunity to do something with nickel, gold, platinum or silver for years and has not done it. One might say that part of it, as in West



Germany, is to have some government money combined with some private money. One goes in and tries to establish an industry that could be viable, using the resources that are there. I would not suggest for a moment that we take something from the south and bring it to the north. There is an abundance of wealth.

I used the example of sulphur. We have a tremendous problem with sulphuric acid, which is ravaging southern Ontario now. There is the big stack at Inco, and some of it is coming down here. We have excess volumes of sulphuric acid. If one produces it, one is going to glut the market. But if one were to produce and use it with something else, such as phosphates from Cargill township in the riding of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, if one combined the two, one could make fertilizer that we are currently importing into Ontario.

One of the solutions is to look at what there is in one's own area. Some of it could be straight crown corporations; I do not deny that. Others could have, and must have, private and government funding to get something established. There is a variety of ways. We could encourage co-ops.

However, we cannot sit back and simply say we cannot do anything. We have had 100 years of waiting for the private sector to come to the north on its own, and it has chosen not to do so. That is why, whether the member likes it or not and whether I like it or not, we are going to have to have government involvement; otherwise, the north is never going to develop. We can do it by a number of methods. There is no one solution to all the problems. We could develop a variety of programs.

**Mr. Runciman:** I commend the previous speaker for his comments in reference to hockey violence. I fully support him. I know how strongly he feels about this and how well he has brought the case to this House over the past number of years. I want to indicate my support and, I am sure, the support of many other members of this party. We wish him well in his ongoing battle.

I have the honour to represent the historic riding of Leeds, a strong agricultural area, and one of the great dairying sections of Ontario. Therefore, it will not come as any great surprise that I would like to make a few comments in regard to agriculture in the last or second-to-last budget of the Treasurer.

With respect to agriculture, this budget is disappointing for what it does not say rather than for the little it does say. Where is the capital

assistance program promised by the Liberals in the 1985 election campaign? Where are the low-interest loans for farmers promised in the accord? Where is the 75 per cent funding for tile drainage work? Short-term interest rate relief and the expansion of current programs are not long-term answers to the financial crisis in Ontario's agriculture industry.

When one takes a look at the programs introduced in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and in the United States with its farm bill, it becomes painfully obvious that this government has done precious little for farmers. There is no financial reform to speak of in this budget and no significant increase in budget share.

There is an old saying that the farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything he buys at retail, sells everything he sells at wholesale and pays the freight both ways. Today there is still a lot of truth in that. The farmers in this province are facing tough times. This is an era when we need dynamic leadership in agriculture, and this government is failing to provide that leadership.

My colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) over the past month or so has been referring to concerns about the St. Albert cheese factory in his riding and the milk quota. At one time, Leeds was the centre of the cheddar cheese industry in Ontario, with more than 100 cheese factories. Today there are only two, and both are famous for their products. Mr. Speaker, perhaps you have tried Plum Hollow cheddar or that made by Forfar.

A combination of factors led to the demise of the small cheese factories. Big condenseries moved in. They needed milk supplies; so they would buy up a small cheese factory to get its milk supply. They then closed the cheese factory. At one time, four of the largest condenseries in Canada were in Leeds, one in Gananoque and three in Brockville. Like the cheese factories, they have disappeared, although there is still one milk plant left, Ross Laboratories in Brockville, which produces the world-famous baby-food formula Similac, but with a milk base from a milk plant in another riding.

It is impossible to turn back the clock, but I think we should endeavour more strenuously to ensure that the family farm in Leeds and elsewhere does not go the way of the cheese factories and the milk plants. I urge the government to assist me in ensuring that the two remaining cheese factories and others such as the



St. Albert factory continue to survive and prosper.

Many in the agricultural community in Leeds have expressed concern about the government's proposed ban on the severance of farm land for residential purposes. They believe the Ministry of Agriculture and Food should be placing more emphasis on the right to farm. For that matter, the government should have an overall agricultural policy rather than dealing with issues such as food land preservation on an ad hoc basis.

As part of that overall policy, perhaps the minister should be looking at the idea of government acquisition of development rights of prime farm land and prime farm land only. I am sure members are aware that there is a chronic discrepancy in central and southwestern Ontario, especially between the value of land for its productive use in farming and for its consumptive use in development. In many instances the discrepancy is so great that market forces typically operate to drive land out of agricultural use.

I suggest to the minister that he consider a concept that is in use in a number of American states, the development of a voluntary program of public purchase of development rights. Basically the American programs provide state funding to purchase the right to develop property. The land owner pays the difference between the price his land would bring on the open market and the value it would have if restricted to agricultural uses. In return for this payment, the owner signs a covenant with the state and town. This agreement forbids use of the land for other than farm purposes and requires that the land be maintained in a condition suitable for agriculture. I will not go into more details, but I encourage the minister to investigate this option actively.

**6 p.m.**

In the budget, there is no mention of eastern Ontario agriculture, and that does not augur well for the east. Our farmers have to be competitive, keen and efficient, and governments have to keep it as simple as possible. Ontario can and will provide food at very competitive prices for our consumers and will still benefit our farmers if we set things properly in place. We need to examine on a regular basis exactly how, when and why things are being done in agriculture in Ontario. I urge this temporary government to pay heed to the specific concerns of eastern Ontario farmers.

I want to make a brief comment which is a compliment to the government with respect to a recent appointment. A former member of this

House, a former member for Cornwall, George Samis, was recently appointed to the Ontario Highway Transport Board. I want to commend the government on that appointment. George is a friend, a colleague and a fine individual. He certainly did not fit the mould of the traditional NDPers as we have come to know them. Apparently, George was able to purchase the right size of underwear. We have often suspected that most NDPers wear two sizes too small. In any event, I am sure George will do a fine job.

The speech from the throne and the budget reaffirm the government's commitment to policies outlined in its accord with the New Democratic Party; in other words, its socialist agenda. Make no mistake about it. This is what we now have in place in Ontario: a socialist government. The electorate at large is slow to come to that realization, thanks in no small part to the media. Papers such as the red Star refuse to say anything negative about this government, but that will be overcome. The electorate at large will very shortly begin to appreciate the socialist nature of this government.

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** Oh? Did we buy Suncor?

**Mr. Runciman:** The Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) remembers my position on that, does he not? Former supporters of the NDP already understand it. They are deserting that party in large numbers and it is understandable. Why support a socialist party that will never have a chance of governing when a person can support one that is already governing? This caucus, to my left and to everybody's left, made a serious error and it will pay for it. Its members were like lemmings being led to the precipice by the Pied Piper, the member for York South (Mr. Rae).

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Runciman:** In the next election, they will pay the price for their subversion of principles. They may even reap the whirlwind before an election as many people within the party start to give vent to the outrage that this little red rump has generated by jeopardizing the future of their party. Even the Leeds NDP passed a resolution recently condemning the accord. In any event, the days are numbered for the silk-stockinged socialists behind this deal. We all know that a certain fireman from Hamilton is just waiting in the wings to restore principle to a once-proud party.

I described the present government as socialist in nature, but "quasi-socialist" might be more accurate. I believe that is borne out by the facts.



In every province where socialists have assumed power, there immediately follows the same pattern of attacking professional groups, interference with business and industry, and retroactive legislation.

We are seeing it now in Ontario. We have seen it in the past in British Columbia, in poor old Saskatchewan, which the socialists almost wrecked, and in Manitoba, where they turned sunshine into drought by interfering with business and industry, by overloading the civil service and through policies that are causing most business headquarters to vacate the province. The socialist takeover of a province is a prescription for disaster, the stifling of individual enterprise in favour of collectives and rapid debt increase. People are now recognizing what it means when socialists seize power. The promise of socialism long ago proved to be a bad dream.

**Mr. Martel:** Saskatchewan had money in the bank until Devine took over. He wrecked it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member for Leeds may continue.

**Mr. Runciman:** What this quasi-socialist government stands for, and in some degree is putting into effect through its Faustian pact or coalition with the New Democratic Party, will not encourage economic growth but will produce more government growth. It can turn Ontario, the economic powerhouse of this country, into the poorhouse of Canada.

It was Stephen Leacock who said that socialism will work in only two places: in heaven, where they do not need it, and in hell, where they already have it. In my view, Ontario is closer to heaven than it is to hell, and we in the Progressive Conservative Party intend to do what we can to keep it that way.

I will say a word or two about concerns brought to my attention by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union in relation to the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital and, more specifically, the manner of operating the forensic unit in that hospital. As members may be aware, that unit treats some of the most violent criminals in Canada. I feel OPSEU has a legitimate fear with respect to the manner of staffing this unit, bearing in mind the type of patients and their potential for unpredictability.

For starters, this ward has 40 patients in it. That is more than the Brockville Jail. I am told that in Penetanguishene there are approximately 20 patients per ward. On night shifts ward K, the forensic unit, has four nursing staff, one male and three female, a ratio of 10 patients per nurse. The staff of this so-called medium-security

facility also receives \$2 to \$3 an hour less than comparable staff at Penetanguishene.

It is obvious that changes are required. The Minister of Health should consider the reduction of patient levels to approximate the ones at Penetanguishene. This could be accomplished by developing G, H and K units as totally forensic and utilizing the vacant E and F buildings for uses currently located in G and H.

The ratio of male to female staff in the forensic unit must also be changed. The present shift ratio of one male to three females is, in the view of most observers, unsafe. The male complement must be increased.

Finally, the pay inequity between nurses in Penetanguishene and those in the forensic unit in Brockville must be reduced. When one looks at the histories of patients housed in ward K, this request becomes eminently justifiable. A salary increase to bring wages more in line with those at Penetanguishene would also go a long way towards eliminating the problems of staffing the forensic unit. Very few people want to work there, and understandably so, when they can receive similar rates of pay in other, less dangerous areas of the hospital.

The forensic unit at the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital requires closer scrutiny by the minister's staff and special measures to alleviate or eliminate the unhappiness and fear that seem to permeate the staff. I urge the minister to review this situation.

I will make one final reference to the psychiatric hospital, and that is with respect to a strong concern among staff regarding the activities of the patient advocate. I am glad to see the minister's parliamentary assistant is here. I am not taking sides in this matter, but I ask the minister to reconsider the makeup of the committee he has established to evaluate the patient advocate program. The committee, chaired by a well-known civil rights activist, is stacked against medical and hospital support staff. Obviously, the minister or, more likely, some of his underlings are looking for unanimity in the report. I ask the minister to review personally the representation on this committee to ensure that the problems that staff members contend this program generates are given a hard look.

**6:10 p.m.**

The government has introduced a bill on French-language services, and I want to speak very briefly on a related subject that has been studiously avoided: official bilingualism. The question of whether Ontario should be declared officially bilingual appears to be a subject that is



unofficially off limits for discussion in this House by all three parties. I am not sure why that is, but one suspects it is because the issue is very controversial and, with some people, can generate very strong emotional reactions.

I believe it should be talked about in this House, and at length. It is a very important issue, and if one believes many of the recent pronouncements of the current Premier, it is something we as a Legislature may be faced with in the very near future.

When one opposes official bilingualism, one can expect to be quickly dumped on by many in the media and others. One is quickly labelled a redneck, a bigot or a racist, never a thoughtful person genuinely concerned about the long-term social and economic implications of such a move.

My wife is bilingual and rapidly becoming trilingual. I too am attempting—I stress “attempting”—to learn French, although admittedly my progress is slow. *Je ne suis pas un bon étudiant, mais je fais un effort.* There is no fear of languages in the Runciman family. If one has travelled in Europe, one cannot help admiring the many people who have facility in a number of languages. The establishment of increased language training opportunities in this province is something to be encouraged and supported.

The provision of French-language services for Franco-Ontarians is something for which my party has a distinguished record indeed. On behalf of this party, outstanding spokesmen such as the member for Cochrane South, the member for Cornwall (Mr. Guindon) and the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will continue to be strong advocates for French-language services, and I know they will have the wholehearted support of their caucus colleagues.

Appropriate French-language services and the expansion of language training opportunities unquestionably deserve the support of this House. Official bilingualism, however, is a horse of a different colour. The proponents of official bilingualism, such as the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grand-maître), like to say that official bilingualism would simply confirm in legislation what is already the practice in many situations.

The key words here might be “in many situations.” Canadians are light years from the fluency in each other’s language that is common to most other multilingual democracies. Even in such a troubled case as Belgium, where about 60 per cent speak Flemish and 40 per cent speak

French, around half the population is bilingual; so there is little justification in numbers for declaring Ontario officially bilingual. The social base for official bilingualism in Ontario is further weakened by the regionally diverse distribution of Ontarians claiming to be bilingual.

There is no question where the Premier and his party want to take us. It is down the Pierre Trudeau freeway in a continuation of his supreme exercise in social engineering, as Richard Gwyn described it in his book *The Northern Magus*: Pierre Trudeau’s social revolution, whose central, inescapable fact is loss of power for unilingual Canadians.

Official bilingualism for Ontario is not appropriate. It will create considerable social and economic problems. It will be very divisive and it will mean second-class citizenship for the vast majority of Ontarians.

I would like to discuss tourism for a moment. As many members know, my riding is without doubt the most beautiful part of Ontario. I invite those who have doubts about that view to visit. In Leeds we have the Thousand Islands and the Rideau lakes and canal system. Leeds is an especially tempting area for anyone who has ever held a fishing pole or rod. It is easy to put a line in the St. Lawrence just by driving along the Thousand Islands Parkway between Gananoque and Brockville.

It is one of the most scenic routes in Canada, but we need a little more help from the province. I suggest an amendment to our signage policy to allow for signs that encourage the use of the parkway. It would help us divert some of the traffic from Highway 401. Thousands zip by every day without ever realizing how simple it is to enter the parkway and how easy it is to return to Highway 401.

In the throne speech’s only reference to tourism—and the budget did not expand on that area at all with regard to eastern Ontario—the government talked about installing Peterson privies and upgrading a tourist reception centre in Lancaster, and the budget made vague references to additional funding. It is not much of a commitment.

I want to suggest a number of potential projects that merit government support and could have a tremendous impact on Leeds and all of eastern Ontario. First, I urge the government to give serious consideration, following the completion of Expo 86, to dismantling the Ontario pavilion and relocating it along the shores of the St. Lawrence River. Gananoque and Brockville would be excellent sites. Perhaps an even more



attractive location would be somewhere along the Canadian span of the Thousand Islands International Bridge. This would be a major attraction and could generate huge dollar returns.

Another proposal that would impact on my area would be the development of a tourist railway, the Rideau Valley railway. The Rideau Valley division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association has been working on a project that would see a tourist train plying the abandoned CN tracks between Smiths Falls and Chaffey's Locks on the Rideau Canal system. This is an imaginative and viable concept that would bring tremendous advantages to the area. Both direct employment, such as shop work, track work and train personnel, and indirect employment, such as store, motel and restaurant work, would be greatly enhanced. I urge the government to give this group as much encouragement and support as possible.

One final proposal is the concept of an ethnic village just outside Gananoque. This is in its infancy stage, but I urge the government to lend its wholehearted support to it.

**Mr. South:** It is a pleasure to speak in support of the budget. This is a fiscally responsible budget, a pay-as-you-go budget. After the budget, this party and this government held a reception in room 228 where there was a pay bar. We never saw those with the previous government. They were at the Albany Club and somebody paid the shot.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** Shots.

**Mr. South:** Shots; that is right.

Hemingway said, "When you drink a man's whisky, you accept his morality." Who paid for the free bar after the Tory budget speeches? We do not know. Was it the taxpayers or was it the big financiers on Bay Street?

This budget saw a reduction in net cash requirements from \$2.1 billion to \$1.5 billion. It saw a deficit reduction of \$260 million. The budget is good for eastern Ontario in spite of what my friend the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) says. He needs only to look in the Toronto Star today to see that 59 per cent of the residents of eastern Ontario support this government. The honourable member's position is in jeopardy.

Since coming to power, this government has increased the agricultural budget by 39 per cent. It has increased the expenditures for forestry protection by 13 per cent. The government in the budget has tried to even out the good fortune of the province to everyone.

Two notable exceptions where we are having problems are with the farmers and the mining industry and people in northern Ontario. However, the budget certainly addresses some of the problems of the farmers. I agree that we need to do more for the mining industry and for northern Ontario.

**6:20 p.m.**

**Mr. Runciman:** What is the member's position on official bilingualism?

**Mr. South:** I see nothing wrong with it.

**Mr. Runciman:** Great. I will get Hansard.

**Mr. South:** We have a budget that has, as I have said, done much and will do more for eastern Ontario. The people recognize that and are accepting it. We see before us a transfer to the Ontario Development Corp. and the revitalization of the Eastern Ontario Development Corp.

The opposition has seen a government come in that has been innovative and has not been fearful of taking new tacks.

Interjection.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I remind the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) that he is not in his seat.

**Mr. South:** I say to the opposition, let us be a little more creative in how we oppose; let us be a little more innovative. Let us not just ask, "Why do you not cut two cents off the gasoline tax?" Two cents apparently means something like \$300 million in revenue. That is a responsible statement only if they are asking, "What programs are we going to cut by \$300 million, or where are we going to gain that loss of revenue of \$300 million?" It is very irresponsible to stand up in this House and give only one part of the equation: "Cut two cents off the gasoline tax." That is very irresponsible if they do not also say what program they are going to cut or where they will get that money.

Yesterday the member for Brantford expressed the thought that the deficit should have been reduced by \$800 million. I ask my honourable friend, who is not here, where would he get that \$800 million? What programs would he cut back, or what taxes would he increase?

I give those in the opposition the challenge: Start to be a little creative. Start to be a little innovative. Start to try to follow the lead of a government that has the courage to come in and try new things. Do not fall into the rut of what was done last year, the year before, 20 years ago or 40 years ago. Be brave. The people of this province need the best government they can get, and we will get the best government only if the



opposition is responsible, creative and innovative.

We have indicated some philosophies in the budget. We have indicated that there will be no giveaways in regard to freer trade. The opposition is continually wondering what our stand is, and it has been very clear and very emphatic right from the beginning where we are going and what it will do to us and for us. Let them tell us; and if they convince us there is a positive gain to be made by this province and this country, then we will be receptive and supportive.

I say to the New Democratic Party, which is concerned—and I know well it should be—about what is happening to northern Ontario, that it is a real tragedy. Instead of continually criticizing and asking what we are doing, why does it not make some suggestions? Why does it not come out with a positive program?

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** What do you mean? We wrote the accord, for goodness' sake.

**Mr. South:** I disagree with the honourable member.

It should come out with a positive program for the north. What is it that we can do for Sault Ste. Marie? We have to realize that the production of steel faces a shrinking market. It faces increasing competition from countries such as Korea which have very up-to-date steel mills, very low-paid labour and, as I mentioned at the beginning, a shrinking steel market.

In Sault Ste. Marie, what should we do? Let them come up with positive ideas. Let them join with us and let us go together and see that the good fortune and the good management of this province are extended to everyone in the province. Give us more Liberal members in the north, and we will do more for the members opposite. That is a steal from a former leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. The member for Muskoka made that statement in Simcoe. The member did not like that, eh?

Again, I support this budget. It will do much for eastern Ontario. It will help the tourism business. I have to agree with the honourable member for Leeds that we have one of the most naturally beautiful areas in the world: the St. Lawrence River and the Thousand Islands. With regard to tourism, I believe we have hardly scratched the surface.

Tourism is a nonpolluting industry, and it is labour-intensive. What has killed tourism in this

province in the past has been the one-season approach. We have to go after the four seasons. We have to have some central tourist complexes that are big with facilities for all weather conditions. The sun does not always shine, not even in Ontario with the Liberals. It is necessary to have activities for those inclement days.

We need some big, central tourist facilities which will have such things as racquetball sports, indoor tracks, lots of room for crafts, arts, sensitivity training and all those fun things that frustrated spouses go on. I guess I cannot say "housewives" any more.

**Mr. Runciman:** Does the member know any?

**Mr. South:** Frustrated spouses?

Tourism is an area where I feel this province can do a lot. We have to be selective. Again, eastern Ontario has been singled out as an area where we could wisely spend some good tourism dollars. I will be very anxious and supportive and insistent upon this government doing just that.

The other area where we need to do a lot more is with regard to the management of our forests. With our government and the dedication and commitment which the ministry now has from its minister, I believe we will manage our forests better, and we will get good production from one of our best natural resources.

In closing, I throw out the challenge to the opposition members to be creative in their thoughts. When they shoot across the room here with "Cut this" or "Why did you not do this?" let them come out with ideas on where that money is going to come from or come out with which program we should cut back, and perhaps then they will have our attention.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Are there any comments or questions?

**Mr. Runciman:** I hope the member will be in the House to respond to these. I would like to pursue his comments—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Perhaps at this point the member for Frontenac-Addington will move adjournment of the debate, so the member for Leeds can then start his two minutes the next time.

On motion by Mr. South, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



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# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**  
Thursday, May 22, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC





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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 22, 1986

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS FLOOD INSURANCE

Mr. Haggerty moved resolution 31:

That in the opinion of this House, recognizing the serious nature of high levels of water along Ontario's shoreline, resulting in severe loss or damage to properties, a provincial flood insurance program should be established to ensure that flood damage insurance is available to property owners in identified flood plains and to encourage more effective flood plain management. The goals of the program would enable property owners in areas susceptible to flooding to purchase flood insurance which might otherwise not be available, and the development of regionally based programs or corrective and preventive measures for reducing flooding and flood damage in hazardous areas as a prerequisite for eligibility in the flood insurance program could result. Such an insurance program is designed to reduce the escalating costs of property damage caused by floods and is generally unavailable from the private sector insurance companies.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The honourable member has up to 20 minutes for his presentation and he may reserve any portion of it for the windup.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Moving ballot item 3, that a provincial flood insurance program be established in Ontario, provides me with the opportunity to debate for the second time the issue of high levels of water. In 1973, I introduced a motion in the Legislature concerning high levels of water in the Great Lakes basin which was considered by all members of the Legislature as an urgent public concern. Many shoreline property owners and municipalities were encountering severe damage to valuable property.

Following that debate, the government of the day introduced legislation named the Shoreline Protection Act to provide low interest rates to construct shoreline erosion-protection programs. Given the urgency and crisis of more shoreline property damage along Ontario's 4,720 miles of

inland shoreline, many property owners are calling for a reduction in the discharge of water from existing water diversions into Lake Superior and the effect it has on lowering water levels, particularly in the Lake Erie basin. This requires drastic action on behalf of the International Joint Commission, which has the authority to regulate the outflow of water at Lake Superior and Lake Ontario.

Some 12 months ago, I again raised the question in the Legislature with the then Minister of Natural Resources, the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), concerning the high levels of lake water, particularly in Lake Erie, at a record level of 32 inches above normal. I advised him of the continuing serious problems many property owners were encountering, such as shoreline erosion.

I suggested the minister follow the recommendations in the 1952 report of the select committee on high water levels in the Great Lakes system. One recommendation put forward was that a further study be initiated to deal with the adverse effect of hydro-generation structures when completed on diversion of the St. Lawrence River Robert Saunders generation plant. Second, studies were recommended on the proposed construction of control weirs on the Niagara River by Ontario Hydro and the Power Authority of the State of New York as well as on the effect of deepening the St. Lawrence Seaway system and reviewing the diversion of water from the James Bay watershed north to south into Lake Superior.

I want to commend my colleague the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) and Minister of Natural Resources on his initiative in appointing the shoreline management review committee to investigate the long-term approach to shoreline management and in extending the Great Lakes shoreline assistance program to 1987. This new program includes low-interest loans to private land owners for protective works along the Great Lakes in Ontario. These existing programs are of a temporary nature. Long-term solutions are necessary to reduce any further damage to property.

During the severe storm on Lake Erie of December 2, 1985, high gale winds of hurricane force, which continued for two consecutive days,



pounded the north shore of Lake Erie and the eastern basin, causing estimated property damage reaching \$25 million. Many homes were destroyed, and municipal roads and drains were damaged.

I covered that storm following the Lake Shore Road from Port Colborne east to Fort Erie and the Niagara River. The wave action reached 12 feet high, ripping into cottages and permanent homes, destroying everything in its path, including the retaining walls along the Niagara River at the Peace Bridge. I found many roads impassable. Three or four days later, while returning from the Legislative Assembly, I reviewed the damage in Wainfleet township too.

Many property owners lost everything, and in some cases, losses were not covered by insurance because of the wording in the contracts regarding flooding risks. It is interesting to note that the December 2 storm did not meet the criteria of the province's disaster program.

Last week I attended a conference in Albany, New York—the centre for Great Lakes—with state and provincial legislative caucuses on Great Lakes diversions and lake levels. The conference, dealing with the Great Lakes charter, proved to be a most useful tool in providing information and cataloguing data. For example, data recorded on Lake Erie annual water levels since 1900 to the present day show that where heavy precipitation occurs in any given year, there is a noticeable increase in water levels, particularly following the low levels of Lake Erie in the early 1960s. Surging precipitation and increased water levels created a crisis in 1985-86.

I was also interested in the documentation that in November 1983, the International Joint Commission released its last report, Limited Regulation of Lake Erie. That report thoroughly investigates the feasibility of three different sizes of control structure for limited regulation of water levels. Although the regulation would have a positive effect on erosion problems and recreational interests, it would also result in the following negative effects: increased water levels in Lake Ontario, shipping losses, hydroelectric power production losses, recreational boating losses and potential losses to the wetlands and fisheries. Ultimately, the International Joint Commission concluded that the economic losses of limited regulation of Lake Erie outweighed the benefits.

**10:10 a.m.**

The fact is that 60 per cent of Ontario's hydroelectric generating capacity comes from

the Great Lakes. A reduction in flow of 10,000 cubic feet per second, which would alter the lake levels by six inches, would cost Ontario an estimated \$20 million annually in lost hydraulic power. Lowering lake levels by one inch can result in the loss of more than one million tons of cargo capacity per year.

Based on the above facts, high levels of water on the Great Lakes will be present for a number of years, increasing the risk of damage to property owners who could be classified as living in a hazardous area and increasing the costs of flood damage in both human and economic terms.

The resolution before the Legislature this morning follows the principle of the declaration of the National Flood Insurance Act, 1968, in the United States. Its purpose was largely to authorize a flood insurance program initiated by the federal government as well as to guide development away from locations threatened by flood hazards. In 1973, the Flood Disaster Protection Act was declared. It increased the limits of coverage authorized under the national flood insurance program and required participation of the states and local communities in the program.

Until water levels in the Great Lakes basin return to normal, experts and studies initiated by the International Joint Commission show that a crisis remains, a critical element seriously threatening damage to additional shoreline property, loss of homes and cottages. It is cancerous. It can occur at any moment because of a shift in wind direction, increasing velocity and magnifying the problem on a large body of water.

The Ministry of Natural Resources mandate has identified flood plain areas in many communities of Ontario through flood plain mapping. Its engineering studies involving hydrologic and hydraulic analyses of each study area have already produced flood insurance rate mapping. Similar procedures can apply to shoreline property.

One of the major concerns of many property owners is that when the Ministry of Natural Resources, through its agency, the conservation authority, designates flood plain hazard zones, they have problems in obtaining insurance protection on their homes and contents. Obtaining risk insurance in a hazardous zone is almost impossible.

I am sure all members of this Legislature agree with the policy of the Ministry of Natural Resources in flood plain mapping, consulting and advising citizens of the flood plain regula-



tions under the Planning Act. Almost every municipality in Ontario that has been constructed on a waterway, lake or river has flood plain risks.

The introduction of flood insurance in the United States was a solution to the many problems encountered by property owners who had floods year after year. The construction of levees, dikes, breakwalls and shoreline protection to reduce flooding risks in most troubled areas was costly and could not stand up to the forces of mother nature.

The resolution before the House this morning is to encourage private insurance companies to become involved in flood insurance. For example, the US Federal Emergency Management Agency developed the write-your-own program. Under this program, companies agree to sell and service flood insurance under their own names, with government assurance that they will not lose money. At present, participating companies represent 27 per cent of all flood insurance coverage in the United States.

The resolution this morning provides the government with the opportunity to review the effects of the establishment of a provincial flood insurance program. The reasons for such a program would be the need to ensure that flood damage insurance is available to property owners in identified flood plains and to encourage most effective flood plain management.

Accordingly, the goals of the program would be twofold. First, such a provincially supported program would enable property owners in areas susceptible to flooding to purchase flood insurance that otherwise might not be available. Second, such a program could foster more effective flood plain management. The latter suggests a development of regionally based programs of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flooding and flood damage as a prerequisite for eligibility in the flood insurance program.

I moved from the town of Port Colborne to the rural area of Sherkston when I purchased a small farm some 45 years ago. I am giving away my age this morning. One of the problems I encountered in the transition to the country was that I could not obtain risk insurance on farm property. I had difficulties. I could not get any of the larger insurance companies to provide insurance. Location was one of the reasons given to me at the time. I was not within a five-mile radius of a fire hall and I did not have water lines in front of my property. There was every excuse one could find. I shopped around and, lo and behold, I found a farm mutual insurance compa-

ny and was able to obtain risk insurance on my property. I even had wind insurance at that time.

This is another area the government should look at so we could say to the property owners along the lakeshore, "We will provide you with the opportunity to form a mutual insurance agency or corporation." It has worked out very well. It was called Bertie and Willoughby at that time, but now it is called Bertie and Clinton and covers much of the Niagara region. It includes not only farm land and farm property but also urban areas in the Niagara region and has provided a good protective measure for risk insurance.

It is a simple way. It does not cost the government anything in this area except for a charter for persons along the shoreline or for flood plain mapping in Ontario to obtain insurance. This is another method where we could provide assistance. The intent of this resolution is to provide these people, these property owners along the lakeshore, with some measure of insurance in case of the loss of a building.

It is great to say that by putting forward minimal efforts, government can reduce the lake levels on Lake Erie and other lakes. I know this much: I am not convinced by the experts that they are not storing water in Lake Erie for generation plants on the New York state side and for Ontario Hydro on the Canadian side. I know the problem if one opens some of the valves and control gates from Lake Superior down to Lake Ontario and into the St. Lawrence River. It would cause problems in the province of Quebec, because we would be loading water down in that area. Apparently, we are going to have to live with the risk. In Lake Erie in particular, we have shifting winds and shifting water from the western basin to the eastern basin, which causes severe shoreline problems and damage to property.

The government must move in this area. All the indications from the data and reports that have come from experts and through computer models are that we are going to have high levels of water on Lake Erie for the next 10 years because of the extraneous flow that is coming in from the watershed from northern Ontario and the diversions from the James Bay watershed to Lake Superior. It is going to cause us problems.

**10:20 a.m.**

Another thing I am concerned about is that some immediate steps should be taken to reduce the level of water on Lake Erie. Currently, Ontario Hydro is not using its share of the water from the water rights agreed by the state of New



York and Ontario. They are not using their capacity. I understand that Ontario Hydro through the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Energy has suggested that another hydro generating plant be constructed on the Canadian side by Ontario Hydro to produce 500 to 600 megawatts. I understand the Power Authority of the State of New York this year will be starting construction on additional generating capacity on the American side. That means they will be taking more water from the Niagara River, well above their share.

Studies in the past have indicated that the average flow of water going over the Niagara Falls is 200,000 cubic feet per second. In the past couple of years it has been as high as 285,000 cubic feet per second, even with the two power generating stations taking their share. There is an ample supply of water that should be diverted through the Welland Canal. We could increase the present flow of 9,700 cubic feet per second. I have a strong feeling that we could make better use of the Welland Canal to help reduce the water level on Lake Erie.

This would provide additional generation capacity at the Niagara Falls plant. It will not take seven or eight years to bring on stream. It could probably be constructed in a year. All that is required are tubes from the escarpment down into the old Welland Canal going through St. Catharines. We might be able to increase the flow there to 12,000 cubic feet per second. That means reducing the water levels on Lake Erie quite a bit.

There are initiatives that could be taken by this government and by the federal government, which has shirked its responsibility in this area. It is an international body of water. On the American side at least, the federal government has stepped in and provided flood insurance, giving some relief and some security to the people living along the lakeshore.

We live in a society full of risk. I suggest my resolution this morning could reduce that level of risk. At least the people would be able to rebuild new homes set back from the lakeshore or away from flood plains.

I thank the members. I am sure they will support the resolution.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Does the member for Erie wish to reserve the last minute and 21 seconds for a reply?

**Mr. Haggerty:** Yes.

**Mr. Harris:** While the member for Erie is sure all members of the House will support this resolution—and I will support it—I am disappoint-

ed in it. It is one step that may provide assistance to the residents along Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie who are experiencing problems now and will experience them in the future, as the member for Erie has stated. I do not think there is any question about that.

Where I differ with the member is on the question of how long into the future this problem must go on. I also differ with him in thinking that of all the things that could be done, this one he has chosen to bring to the fore is probably the one that will be the most difficult to implement and the one that will cost the most money.

I will talk briefly about the resolution as it stands and then I will go on to some other things that I think should be in the resolution or might be highlighted in place of this resolution.

It is true that flood insurance is not available now in a lot of areas of the province. Those are areas where the residents do not want to purchase insurance because there is no risk of floods. Those people do not want into the insurance pool; the guys on the high ground do not need it. The only people who are interested in buying flood insurance or who want to be insured are those who very likely are going to have to draw on their claims.

As the coalition members will know, and anybody who has gone down to take a look at the situation will tell members, the real reason insurance companies are not into this, particularly in the areas we are talking about along Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, is the 100 per cent certainty that the damage and flooding are going to be there. If there is a 100 per cent risk that there is going to be a claim, the premium will be 100 per cent plus the administration fee and what not. In effect, a guy is going to be asked to prepay something to an insurance plan before the damage even occurs, with the pretty good certainty that it is going to occur.

If this resolution is suggesting the government should provide the insurance, it should say so. As I read the resolution, it is saying the government should set up an insurance plan or facilitate the setting up of a plan for which individuals would have to pay the premium. That premium will probably be at a rate of at least 100 per cent of what the damage is going to be. If the premium is lower than that, it is because the insurers do not expect flood damage, and the people who do not expect it will not buy insurance so their money will not be in the pool.

The whole thing sounds like an option we are not going to oppose looking at, but unless substantial tax dollars are thrown in, I do not see



any home owners along the Lake Erie shoreline being able to afford the insurance. What is disappointing is that significant other reinsurance could be provided by the government of Ontario to these residents in the short term.

We are talking about almost an ongoing daily disaster for many of these residents, and a more immediate response and recognition of that is in order. Certainly there is a need for increased funding assistance to municipalities for shoreline protection remedial work; in fact, there is not only a need but also an obligation on the part of this government to go into that field.

The coalition groups there are calling for an increased limit; it is \$20,000 now. I believe they are saying that it is unreasonable and should be up to \$40,000, that the interest rate of eight per cent is no longer reasonable and should be lower, that damage costs or compensation for land value could be considered through a tax credit process similar to the benefits achieved on the US side of the lake and that the conservation authorities in those areas should be given increased funds.

They are also saying there should be far more recognition of the seriousness of the problem by this government and the Ministry of Natural Resources as well as by the federal government. The government of Ontario and the ministry have to take the lead; that is how things get done with the federal government. I do not see this government taking the lead, however.

**10:30 a.m.**

Much study has been done. The member for Erie mentioned that he did not believe some of the remedial measures to get water out of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair would be feasible, and in the next breath he talked about some of the measures that would get more water through the Welland Canal. The reality is that this government, the federal government and all levels of government on the US side have to recognize and accept the facts that the coalition members have put forward.

This is not a natural phenomenon of more rain, that all of a sudden more rain is accumulating there. In fact, there are man-made structures that allow more water into Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie and man-made structures that restrict the flow out, not to get into the whole area of tile drainage, parking lots, clearing land, taking away the trees and all the things that municipal, provincial and federal governments have done and assisted with. They are all designed to get water off the land and into this basin faster.

We have to recognize that, were all the trees there, this "natural phenomenon" would not be

occurring. Man has interfered. As in any other government, when one designs a system of government, a tax system or the rules by which one is going to operate, sometimes the best one can hope for is that those rules benefit the most people. One sets up a system wherein one hopes 100 per cent of the people can achieve in the system, but one knows that will not happen. If five per cent or 10 per cent cannot achieve in that system, the government has an obligation to provide the support programs for the 10 per cent that cannot achieve, possibly because of the rules of the game that have been set up to benefit the majority.

We have the same situation here. We have shipping interests, we have Hydro interests and we have all these structures that are impeding water going out. We have all the things that have been done to accelerate water going in. We have to accept some responsibility for that.

The member for Erie mentioned the downside effects of getting more water out, not by putting more out than should go but just by correcting the impediments that have been put in there. Plan 25-N at the Niagara Gorge should be looked at. It does not call for more water to go out than would have occurred if all these man-made structures were not there.

We talk about problems in Quebec; the engineering estimates I had were that they were adding half an inch of water. There was half an inch of water at Montreal, where it is now two feet lower than it used to be on the banks. I disagree with the member for Erie that that should be an impediment.

I call on this government now to get into some of those measures, both long-term and short-term. I am disappointed that this resolution addresses only one very narrow aspect that is difficult to implement.

**Mr. Swart:** I want to speak on this resolution that we have before us today, because I live in the area and I am very conscious of the financial and emotional problems many people have suffered as a result of the shoreline damage in that area.

As well, in my area I have many constituents who own cottages along the lakeshore and have suffered that damage. I have heard many figures given about the amount of damage, from \$10 million along the north shore of Lake Erie to a total of \$1 billion all the way around. Whatever it is, it is very substantial. Wainfleet estimates it will lose approximately \$75,000 in taxes because of the real property losses. We know much of the point at Long Point has been eroded. It is not only the loss to recreation; there are also many rare



birds, animals and plants there that will disappear, perhaps from Ontario or even North America, if another storm or two of that nature takes place.

I will be supporting the resolution, but I am supporting it only half-heartedly. I find it a very convoluted resolution. Its purpose is to provide insurance. Then by some sort of back-door method, the member wants to encourage more effective flood plain management. He says that "regionally based programs or corrective and preventive measures for reducing flooding and flood damage in hazardous areas" will be "a requisite for eligibility in the flood insurance program." I do not know what is going to happen to those people who cannot afford to take the remedial measures. They are just going to suffer the same consequences in another flood. It does not resolve the problem appropriately.

When he talks about the public domain providing insurance, it is another indication that the member wants the public sector to bail out the private insurance companies. It is the same all the time; if there is any real risk, the private insurance companies do not want it. "Let the government look after that." They want to insure only the good risks or the small risks.

The real reason I am lukewarm is that this deals with only a very small part of the problem. It does nothing to reimburse all those people who suffered massive losses in that storm, and some of them previously. It does not deal with assistance in building breakwalls or the other measures to prevent their property from being damaged in the future. Most of all, it does not deal with lowering the level of Lake Erie, which is the real preventive measure that should be taken.

In fact, one would almost think this resolution was introduced by a member on the government side to shield his government from dealing with the real and admittedly costly problems and solutions. Why would the member not have proposed, in his resolution, some plan for the north shore of Lake Erie so that subsidies could be provided, as they are under the Drainage Act, for protection all along that shore?

Why did he not propose to do something about lake levels which, as I have already said, are the real problem? The member must know something about those lake levels. They stayed at about the 569- or 570-foot level down in our area for many decades; in fact, from the time they were first recorded in 1912. Right through until about 1970, they stayed at the 569- or 570-foot level, and then they started moving up. They

moved up to 571 feet and have not been lower than that since 1969. Then they moved up to 572 feet in 1973-74, and at present they are up to the 573-foot level.

After having been up there for 15 to 17 years, there is a real likelihood they will never go back to the original levels which existed from 1913 to approximately 1970.

The member for Nipissing gave some reasons. There has been the diversion of the Ogoki and Kenogami rivers from James Bay to Lake Superior. It is perhaps not a major factor, but it has added water to the Great Lakes basin. There has been more runoff because of the depletion of our forests and probably more cultivated land than there has been ever before. Even here in southern Ontario, there has been the loss of the wetlands, and this has all been aggravated by the warmer weather we have had recently.

**10:40 a.m.**

Another factor is that we have control of the Lake Superior level. They can let it out when it gets too flooded. When Lake Superior gets too high, they let it out into Lake Huron. We have had the dredging of the St. Clair River and the Detroit River. At the time it was done, that lowered the level of Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair by about a foot. All this water runs down into Lake Erie, and its outlet has never been changed. If we are going to have the additional input of all of this water and have control on Lake Superior, then control is needed to improve the outlet of Lake Erie down the Niagara River.

I was very surprised to hear the member for Erie defending the International Joint Commission for not taking any action there because the benefits did not warrant the cost. There is a new situation now that did not exist before with these ongoing higher levels, and a new study should be made. We know the 25-N study said the benefits would not warrant the cost, but that is not the situation that exists today.

It is significant that the government of the United States wants to proceed with this new study. It is the government of Canada and the government of this province that are dragging their feet. In this resolution there should be a request to the federal government to proceed with this study or at least with a study to determine whether the benefits would outweigh the costs now.

It is no fault of the people there that this damage is being done and that there is the probability of a great deal more damage being done to their property. These are the actions of somebody else, and perhaps the actions of God.



Men have intervened in the flow of the Great Lakes, and they should intervene in the Fort Erie area to deepen the Niagara River so water can get away and we can control it.

The member talked about the loss of hydro generating power. I suggest that when the generating stations were built, the level of Lake Erie was substantially lower than it is now. In fact, the overall generating power could be increased by holding Lake Erie at a steady level rather than having it go up and down as it does at present.

Why did the member for Erie not ask at least for the review and reconsideration of 25-N, the plan for the control works at Fort Erie, and for a new cost-benefit study? Why did he not recommend the other measures that have been asked for by the group? The Chicago diversion can be increased; the Black Rock lock can be opened and increased; even the Welland Canal can handle more water.

This is a weak proposal to deal with a major problem. The constituents of the member for Erie will not be very proud of him for this resolution.

**Mr. Callahan:** It is a pleasure to participate in this debate on the issue raised by my colleague. One of the extreme difficulties that comes out of all this is that while it is very pleasant to live next to a body of water, perhaps to live as close as possible to that body of water, doing that necessarily incurs certain risks. They are not new risks; they have been with us for quite some time.

I have a statement here from the federal agency report, which was a newsletter item of the Association of State Flood Plan Managers. It indicates that evidence collected by the weather service and other federal agencies shows that flood damage has been increasing in constant dollar value since 1900. It appears this problem has been around, as I have said, for a considerable period of time.

It becomes quite obvious that the answer is not simply compensation. We are going to have problems with the ever-increasing amount of water in our Great Lakes as long as the water is there and as long as we continue to have rain and snow; and I am sure no one would ever vote against having rain and snow, because they provide a very necessary commodity to keep us alive.

For that reason, to look at it simply from the standpoint of an insurance issue is to bury our heads. We can compensate people only so many times. We can compensate them for loss of property, but we cannot compensate them for

personal injury. That, as well as the loss of property, is a very considerable risk to them.

Addressing for a moment the intent of my colleague's resolution that this matter can be resolved, at least in the short term, by way of an insurance scheme, one has to look at what the purpose and function of insurance is. Quite obviously, insurance is a gamble between the insurance company and the policyholder that something will not happen. The rates are set on the basis of how predictable or how imminent the thing is. It is like rolling the dice; there are so many permutations and combinations that the dice will come up for or against one.

Recognizing that the premium is based on the likelihood of something happening and recognizing that what we are told today is that damage from high water is probably going to be with us for ever, one has to look at how one establishes some form of monetary protection. Monetary protection, I suggest, would have to be contained within a policy that would be spread over the entire populace.

One cannot possibly create a policy of insurance and simply sell it to the people who have the particular risk. The premiums would be so exorbitant it would hardly be worth their while. They might decide to take the chance that this year they will not suffer significant damage or, in the alternative, that government will bail them out.

They would probably be right on either of those scores, because when a difficult issue such as this arises it calls for urgent action. Very often urgent action is not the best action. It becomes a knee-jerk reaction. Particularly with government, if we react in a knee-jerk way, we are going to wind up with a situation where we are going to make the situation worse as opposed to better.

I suggest the implementation of a review committee by the Minister of Natural Resources in February 1986 is the approach to take on a long-term basis. Quite obviously, we do not want to have to resort to any knee-jerk reaction. Being legislators and being here to represent people, we are appalled by natural disaster and at seeing these people suffer damage. However, we do not serve their long-term needs if we simply address it each time it happens, then hope it goes away and address it again the next time it comes.

Over the years, there have been attempts through the planning process to try to establish flood plain locations within which one could not build a structure. That went some way towards not only taking property out of the danger zone



but also protecting life and limb from being endangered by this type of natural phenomenon.

However, there are other steps that have to be taken. One cannot have it both ways. One cannot live right beside the body of water for its natural beauty and not take some of the risks. That is where government has to get involved. We have to tell people they cannot live that close to the water because there is a danger. If people choose to do so, it would have to be on the basis that there would not be any compensation; they would be voluntarily assuming that risk.

To simply try to establish an insurance program to pay after the fact is untenable. It would not work. The premiums would be enormously high. This is assuming one does it through the private sector. If one does it through the public sector, the logical extension is that for any other risk people in the community cannot find coverage for without paying an exorbitant premium, they could come to the government and say to us: "You have done it for them. We would like you to do it for us." We do not want to create that type of demand. There are enough demands on government without that.

**10:50 a.m.**

In the long term, I endorse what the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) has done. He has set up a committee to examine, I hope once and for all, the causes and effects and the way in which we will deal with it on a long-range basis. That will set in place the mechanisms to deal with it in the future.

For the present, and perhaps to overcome that hiatus period when these remedies are not going to be put in place, there probably has to be some form of economic relief for the people in that situation today. They have been placed in that position by the inactivity of the previous government in not adopting some long-range plans in the past. As the government, we have a responsibility to address that need. I hope we will do that now and for ever and that it will not be a further situation which results in a knee-jerk reaction. Such a reaction is neither sensitive nor sane in terms of the fiscal responsibility of this province.

Another approach that might be looked at, although it seems very difficult in the light of the high premiums that are arising in the insurance industry, is to have a policy that covers this loss whether or not one is a high risk. That is the principle of insurance; the loss is spread over the largest number of people.

There are some people in towns and municipalities who may find it beneficial to have some

form of coverage for sewer bursts or backups in their basements. The two elements might be combined to create a simple inclusion in all policies for an additional amount. In that way, everyone would pay in a bit and a program such as that could be put together. To say the people who are going to be participants are the ones who live in the high-risk areas would make the premium out of sight under a private program.

In closing, although I appreciate what my colleague is suggesting, I do not see that as the panacea or the solution to this problem. I suggest the solution rests with attacking this on a full-scale basis by way of a task force coming up with some very positive recommendations and putting them into place. If putting them into place requires the expenditure of money to eliminate places that have been built in high-risk areas to avoid the danger to life and limb in the future, so be it. It has to be at least a definite, long-term plan. Short-term, Band-Aid solutions will not solve the problem, and maybe not myself, but other members in the future will have almost a legacy of coming here and speaking on this particularly sensitive and emergency issue. The people of Ontario deserve more than that.

**Mr. Sheppard:** I am pleased to have the opportunity to make a few comments on the resolution as brought forth by the member for Erie. Generally, I agree with the idea of a provincial flood insurance program and that such a program should be established to ensure the availability of flood damage insurance to property owners in identified flood plains.

In my riding of Northumberland, municipalities such as Brighton, Port Hope, Cobourg and Colborne are affected by the high water levels along the Lake Ontario shoreline. There are roughly 70 miles of lakeshore in my riding. I believe there is some assistance from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the federal government. Some of the property owners in my riding have taken advantage of some grants to build retaining walls or crib walls along their properties abutting Lake Ontario.

For example, one constituent in Brighton wrote to me complaining that she continually has to dump loads of sand because part of her backyard is washed away every spring. Her primary reason for writing was to request information about the possibility of financial assistance, as every year it costs her more than she can afford.

The proposed type of insurance program, which thus far is unavailable through private sector insurance companies, would help to



reduce the escalating cost of property damage caused by flood and erosion. It is my understanding, however, that the Insurance Bureau of Canada would be willing to look into the possibility of an agreement among various insurance groups to ensure coverage in case of flooding.

This resolution is surely one action we must consider to ensure property owners are compensated for flood damage, but I sincerely hope this is only an interim measure until we find a more permanent solution to the problem of flooding. Corrective and preventive measures must be discovered to reduce flooding and flood damage.

In my riding of Northumberland, some of my constituents have built retaining walls or crib walls that so far have reduced the amount of flooding and erosion. However, these measures require funding and planning, which is why I particularly agree with this resolution as a temporary measure to the pressing problem of increased flooding.

I do not know whether the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan) realizes that assistance is available through the Ministry of Natural Resources and the federal government. I hope the Ministry of Natural Resources will contact the federal government to see whether more money is available so we can help all the people in the great riding of Northumberland, not just those living along the shores of Lake Ontario or Lake Erie.

I call on the Minister of Natural Resources to put out a real arm to get all the money he can get because we need that money to help all the people along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

**Mr. Hayes:** Many of the shoreline residents probably wish they had insurance prior to the flooding last fall and the years before. I know the majority of the shoreline residents would support a resolution that would give them the opportunity to purchase insurance. However, the problem I have with this is that it seems to be a bit of window dressing when we talk about the prerequisite that is required to purchase the insurance. With this prerequisite, I do not know whether anyone in this province who lives along the shoreline would be able to take advantage of this insurance.

The people who live along the shoreline are getting into a situation where they are getting nothing but breakwalls, barriers and things such as that. The people who live on the shorelines want to enjoy the beaches that were there when they moved there.

What is needed is a government that not only listens but also truly acts. What is needed is someone with the political will to take a serious look at controlling the Great Lakes level. I find it rather interesting that the member for Erie indicated at the beginning that when he was in opposition, he was pressuring the previous government to do something about controlling the Great Lakes. Now that seems to have turned around. That member is in the party that can do something at this time.

The Minister of Natural Resources has accused me of always being critical, but I must say—

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** No, no.

**Mr. Mancini:** Not critical; just wrong.

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I flew the member around and welcomed him with open arms.

**11 a.m.**

**Mr. Hayes:** Not necessarily.

I have made many suggestions to the Minister of Natural Resources. I brought people down who gave him ideas and asked him to look at solutions to reduce the flooding of the Great Lakes. They have done things in shoreline protection, such as loans and setting up of the committee and areas such as those. I welcome all that, but I feel the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître), or whoever it takes, should take a serious look at reducing the lake levels if they really want to—

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. Hayes:** I wish I had more time.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Erie has 81 seconds.

**Mr. Haggerty:** I was interested in some of the comments made by the member for Nipissing. He said flood plain insurance would cost the government money. There were three proposals in my opening statement. It actually says the onus is on the property owners along the lakeshore because they know it is a hazardous area. In many places it has been zoned through planning.

He talked about the cost and he said the government should spend more money on other preventive measures such as more shoreline protection. That costs the province money too, because it gives low interest rates that someone has to pick up.

The previous government had been in power for 42 years. We should go back to legislation reversing the previous government's decision of



1951 concerning the high-water marks, or riparian rights as they were known at that time. They removed that from vegetation growth to the water's edge. If they had maintained that interpretation at that time, they would have had control on where to build homes or dwellings along the shoreline.

The member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), who always takes a dim view of almost everything, should read what I have said.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired. That completes the allotted time for ballot item 3. The next item is ballot item 4.

### TRADE UNIT

Mr. Andrewes moved resolution 34:

That in the opinion of this House the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, should establish a trade unit within the marketing branch of the ministry. The purpose of this unit would be to monitor and participate in international trade discussions under GATT and the current discussions on trade enhancement with the United States; to determine opportunities and/or potential damage from trade enhancement discussions; to compile a bank of information on internationally traded food commodities, including the country of origin, production conditions and costs of production and the form and amount of any government assistance. These initiatives would provide Ontario producers, processors and exporters with a database to assist in planning production, researching markets and arguing cases before the tariff board and other bodies governing international trade matters.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member has up to 20 minutes, and if he wishes to reserve any of that time for a windup, that is in order.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I propose this resolution not only from my experience as a member of this Legislature but also from my experience prior to coming into the Legislature, both as an agricultural producer and as a representative of agricultural producers and producer groups, particularly those involved in the marketing of agricultural commodities.

I am sure this is going to be of some interest to the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway). I learned during that period that no single issue challenges or frightens the agricultural community more than the whole question of trade, particularly international trade.

The question of international trade provides a great number of opportunities for expanded production in agriculture. To those who are involved in production, it provides significant

challenges to look at markets abroad, to plan their crop cycles and crop production for those markets, to put in place facilities that will make them competitive in transportation and secondary processing. Unfortunately, the more successful you are and the more vibrant your own economy becomes, the more vulnerable you become to trade from other nations that affects your own home markets.

What is fair in international trade today must be put in terms of what is realistic and what is profitable. Many Ontario products today are sold abroad in the raw state, in the state in which they come from the primary producer. Many are sold as processed or secondary processed products. Commodities that are produced on Ontario farms, such as soybeans, enter international trade in the raw state and compete that way on international markets, while other products, products of the horticultural industry and products of the livestock industry, may go through some secondary processing before they move to these international markets. They can compete well if the competition is fair.

We hear this terminology bandied around on many occasions. We hear it bandied around in discussions on international trade and trade enhancement. We hear it bandied around in discussions on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The whole terminology of "fair" means that Ontario producers of agricultural commodities would have access to markets abroad and would have realistic and reasonable competition at home without significant government intervention or intervention from some other source.

Two important trade talks are going on currently. The first is GATT, which is now scheduled for a further revision. GATT, of course, is a trade agreement among several nations in North America and Europe that allows for access to markets by various traded commodities in the various nations involved in the talks. It allows for a reduction in the barriers, either tariff or nontariff, that currently exist to create a friendlier trading environment for those nations involved in the discussions.

The other significant discussion is the trade enhancement discussion that is currently being initiated by the governments of Canada and the United States, which may or may not lead to a trade agreement between those two nations. It is separate and apart from the discussions that are going on at GATT.

My purpose in proposing this resolution is twofold. First, I propose it to assist the agricul-



tural industry in all its diversification, in all the diversified commodities that are produced by the agricultural community, to better understand the trade discussions that are currently going on, both at GATT and in Ottawa and Washington, and to have an opportunity to make input into these discussions.

**11:10 a.m.**

Let me give members two examples. During the days when some might say I made an honest living, it was my privilege to serve as a member of the Canadian Horticultural Council. I served with that organization during the time of the last round of GATT negotiations. The industry and its membership in that organization heard for years about the discussions that were going on in Geneva and Brussels. This seemed very far removed from those of us who were primary producers or representatives of producers' organizations. We heard names dropped periodically about certain people who were negotiating on our behalf, people who were relative strangers to the agricultural community but who were obviously becoming a very important part of that community's destiny and future.

Most producers assumed that some of the discussions and activities were not available to the public; they were clandestine and secretive. Certainly, the activities that made up these negotiations were remote. Yet it was the livelihood of these very producers that was being discussed, that was being negotiated and that was on the table before the negotiators who were there supposedly on our behalf.

A second example I might offer is the current discussions between Ottawa and the United States on so-called free trade. Groups such as the Ontario Chicken Producers' Marketing Board are terrified of the ramifications of these discussions. They fear the activities within the US and the efforts on the part of the US to market the commodities it produces at a significantly lower cost than Ontario will jeopardize the industry here.

That board has hired a former assistant deputy minister of Agriculture and Food, Bill Doyle, to monitor and act on its behalf in these discussions. They fear their production and their future will be traded off in an effort to find some way to relax the access for other commodities into this country. There is a producer group that is simply looking for input, looking for an opportunity to learn what activity is going on at the negotiations table and trying to find an opportunity to counter this kind of activity and to get involved in the whole discussion.

The second purpose of this resolution in proposing the establishment of a trade unit within the ministry is to provide information to the various sectors of agriculture on a sector-by-sector basis for the planning of their market strategies, so they might determine whether there are new markets; the size of these markets; the apparent wealth of the nation involved in the marketing strategy; and the ability of that nation to sustain that market and that growth, which are so important in the planning process.

Are new production opportunities required within our own province? Are new processing facilities required within our own province? Are cold storage facilities required within our own province? What are the problems of shipping and transportation? What are the problems of residues on products from chemicals that may be used in our own province but may or may not be used in the country to which a commodity is being shipped?

These are some long-term planning strategies that are very much involved and very important to the appropriate planning for an export strategy. At the same time, the same producer groups require a domestic market strategy. They need to know what their competition is. They need to know whether their efforts to trade with a nation abroad might bring retaliation and might open up a process by which their own domestic market could be hurt as a result of their trade initiatives.

These are commodity groups basic to agriculture that want to be prepared. They need a data bank, a bank of information, so when it comes to a confrontation or discussion around a negotiating table, they can better argue cases before organizations and quasi-judicial bodies such as the Canadian Tariff Board and so that they might seek the mechanism, whatever it is, to be put a fair and reasonable case for their trade initiative.

The Ontario Food Processors Association has brought many cases before the Canadian Tariff Board through its Canadian affiliate, the Canadian Food Processors Association. It has brought cases on whole hot-packed tomatoes, on tomato paste and on processed peaches and pears. There has been an ongoing effort on the part of this association to protect its domestic market base, to protect not only the domestic production of these commodities but also the domestic processing of these commodities and to protect the jobs that are so vital to our economy.

They tell me it takes \$100,000 to \$200,000 each time one of the Canadian Tariff Board appeals is heard. What is needed is a database to



provide the background and information necessary to make the case effectively and well. It is very costly to gather this information and it takes a great deal of time. Often the information is out of date before the appeal can be heard. It is important that these groups have access on an ongoing, up-to-date basis to a data bank of information that can provide them with strong and effective evidence so that they can argue their case well. If the information came from a source as impeccable as government, no one would doubt it or attempt to discredit it.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association is currently involved in a countervail debate in which it is looking to protect its own markets from imports from the European Community by applying for a countervailing duty on imported beef products. It could have access and could find this kind of information very useful.

A year ago the Ontario pork producers were involved in a countervail argument with the United States. An action was sought before various trade tribunals to impose a countervailing duty on Canadian pork going to the US. What was the argument? What was the basis for the argument? How does one counter the argument? This commodity group was left pretty well on its own to determine that information, to collect the data and to do it on a timely and effective basis so it could counter the arguments that were being put to the trade tribunals by the American pork producers.

Several years ago the Canadian Wine Institute asked the Canadian Tariff Board to consider a countervailing duty on imported wines from the European Community. It embarked on a very costly study to gather the data on the cost of production and the subsidies that were available to producers in the European Community. The data were not challenged. The data were upheld. The Canadian Tariff Board agreed that unfair trade practices were going on. However, the council could not prove to the Canadian Tariff Board that the domestic industry was being hurt by those unfair trade practices. Some two years later we have ample evidence that this industry is being hurt.

**11:20 a.m.**

The industry now is compelled to go through the process again, to collect its data, to ask for time before the tribunal and to renew its initiatives, all of which, as I say, is costly and time-consuming. In the meantime, the domestic market base continues to erode.

The balance of the resolution spells out, I hope reasonably clearly, the purpose and the modus

operandi of the proposed trade unit. In summary, what I am proposing is the formation of a trade unit within the marketing branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the purpose of which would be twofold. First, it would keep the industry sectors informed of the activities and trade discussions at the GATT meetings and of the free trade discussions between Canada and the United States and allow producer groups to make input into those trade discussions. Second, the trade unit would provide a database for the planning of production and the preparation of arguments before quasi-judicial panels such as the tariff board.

I would be very interested to hear other members' views on this resolution and I hope I can anticipate members' support. I will reserve the balance of my time for comment at the end of the debate.

**Mr. Hayes:** I welcome the opportunity to speak on this resolution to establish a trade unit within the marketing branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. As the resolution points out, "The purpose of this unit would be to monitor and participate in international trade discussions under GATT...to determine opportunities and/or potential damage from trade enhancement discussions; to compile a bank of information on internationally traded food commodities, including the country of origin, production conditions and costs of production and the form and amount of any government assistance. These initiatives would provide Ontario producers, processors and exporters with a database to assist in planning production, researching markets and arguing cases before the tariff board and the other bodies governing international trade matters."

If the intention of the author of this resolution is to halt the farm crisis in this province, I support it. If the intent of this resolution is to preserve the family farm, I also support it. If the intent of this resolution is to reduce imports, increase exports and to ensure that Ontario farmers produce and process as much food of our own as possible, I support it. If the intent of this resolution is to combat such things as the latest US farm bill or the US countervail action on pork, I support it.

But if the intent of this resolution is to enter into discussions on free trade that could disrupt marketing boards, subsidy programs or any other special programs, then I am opposed to it. Maybe when the member for Lincoln has his final couple of moments to respond he can tell us whether he feels the agricultural industry should be on the free trade table for talks.



The trend in the US is to corporate agriculture and vertical integration of the agrifood process. For example, 56 per cent of the hens in that country are owned by 61 companies, all of which have more than one million birds. In Canada, the average is fewer than 30,000 birds. Canadians cannot compete on that magnitude. Besides, we do not want to see our farming turned into a multinational corporation. The family farm is the backbone of this country. If we preserve the family farm, we preserve jobs and communities and we also create many jobs.

If the agriculture industry is on the free trade table, the backbone of this country will be broken because the farm crisis will only worsen. The agriculture industry has too much at stake to consider free trade talks with the United States. Food processing employs more than 250,000 workers in this country and is vital to Ontario as a major market for primary agricultural products, as a source of employment and as a means to reduce imports and increase exports.

One of the major problems is that the food processing industry is controlled by foreign multinationals, which have publicly indicated that any free trade agreement with the US would cause severe dislocation of jobs in Canada and that they would supply Canada from manufacturing facilities in the United States.

Our agricultural implement industry is an example of free trade. It is another industry that is dominated by a few large multinationals. Unlike the auto industry, there are no safeguards or production requirements. Canada produces combines and parts, while the US produces tractors and engines. We have seen the work place shrink at Massey, for example, from more than 5,000 workers six years ago to around 1,000 today. We have seen the ruin of White Farm.

It really irks me when I see the amount of food we import into Ontario. I would like to read out a couple of examples that were compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. These are the dollar amounts of food imported into Ontario alone: apples, \$22 million worth; apple juice, \$10 million; lettuce, \$33 million; tomatoes, \$37 million; peaches, \$8 million; canned peaches, \$6 million; potatoes, \$20 million; and tomato paste, \$25 million. These are foods that we have the ability to grow and also to process in Ontario.

In conclusion, our objective in our agricultural trade policy should be to expand exports and to replace imports. We have the ways and the means in the agricultural industry to fulfil both of those objectives. I believe we can do it, Mr.

Speaker, without having to put agriculture into free trade talks.

**11:30 a.m.**

**Mr. Mancini:** I wish to join other members in participating in the debate on ballot item 4 introduced by the member for Lincoln. As I understand the resolution, the honourable member wishes to create a unit within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to monitor trade on an international basis and then to use the information as a vehicle to discuss important matters with foreign nations. He also wants to use this information to supply the client groups of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food with the information compiled so that when they wish to make representations to their government or before boards which are reviewing matters such as dumping, they will have the information at their fingertips.

This would serve the client groups in two ways. First, it would not cost the client groups any money to compile the information themselves. They would be able to get verification of the information from the government. Second, it would provide a unified approach if they were all using the same information. Of course, the information has to be accurate.

In that respect, I believe the idea to be a good one, although it has been brought to my attention that the market development branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food does carry out many of the functions suggested by the member for Lincoln. In addition, the economics and policy co-ordination branch of the ministry compiles and maintains data on internationally traded food commodities and provides ongoing analysis of trade issues. That branch is actively involved in analysis of the impact of freer trade—or free trade, as it was originally called by the Prime Minister—with the United States.

It would be unfair to say that none of the work the honourable member suggests is being done. The member is suggesting that it be done in a different form and that there be a specified unit within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food so that client groups of the ministry and others wishing to have discussions with the ministry would know there is a unit. It would be much easier to deal with one unit instead of having information compiled and gathered by three or four different parts of the ministry. I find no fault with that suggestion.

The matter that concerns me in the member's resolution is that this unit not only would "monitor and participate in international trade discussions under GATT," but also, as he states,



"the current discussions on trade enhancement with the United States." Trade enhancement is the new terminology that is being used in Ottawa by Prime Minister Mulroney. It is being substituted for the words "free trade."

As we know, over the past year, particularly since the first first ministers' conference attended by our Premier (Mr. Peterson) and since the last Prime Ministers' conference, the term "free trade" is no longer being used in Ottawa because the Prime Minister and parliamentarians there know that free trade is unacceptable, particularly to the automotive community and the farm community. The word "resent" is too strong, but I do not like us using terms such as "trade enhancement" when we know what we are talking about is free trade.

The Premiers of Canada, who have asked Premier Getty of Alberta to head up their delegation in communicating their feelings to the Prime Minister, have stated, and at one time it was agreed, that the provinces should have some representation during the free trade negotiations. We had better call it what it is. The Prime Minister wants free trade; so let us call it exactly what it is.

To this date, the Premiers have not received any clarification from the Prime Minister as to what part he is going to allow the provinces to play during these free trade discussions he has implemented and, through his friendship with Ronald Reagan, now has on the table for discussion.

Every day we hear from the United States' senators and congressmen that they are anxious to have free trade with Canada because they believe Canada has a better deal as far as trade negotiations are concerned. That is not fair. Ontario alone buys more goods from the US than any other country in the world. Unfortunately, that message has not been sold to the American people because the American senators and the American congressmen do not want to sell that particular piece of information.

I say to the member for Lincoln that if we want to unify the way we compile our information within a particular ministry, which would be of help to the agricultural industry of this province, I do not think there is anything wrong with that. However, when he states in his resolution that one of the prime purposes of this new unit would be to discuss and to put forward information on free trade, I question what he really wants to do in this resolution. Is he supporting Mulroney through the back door? Is that what he is doing? Is he standing up and saying that agriculture, like

the automotive industry, must be put on the table for free trade, as the American senators are demanding, along with our cultural sovereignty and our social network?

**Mr. Andrewes:** Does the member have the vaguest idea what the resolution is all about?

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Mancini:** I know we have experts on the other side; I realize that. If they had not been turfed out of office, I wonder what would be the position today of the former Minister of Agriculture and Food, the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson), if he were still the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I wonder if he would be dilly-dallying around trying to support Mulroney through the back door by having agriculture put on the table for free trade.

**Mr. Stevenson:** My position has not changed one iota.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Turfed out of office is a bit of an overexaggeration. Loved out of office maybe.

**Mr. Mancini:** The Premier has led all the other Premiers. The Premier of Ontario has flushed out all the other Premiers on free trade. He sure has. At the first conference he attended, everyone, including my friends across the floor, expected that every province in Canada would issue a press release supporting free trade and Ontario would be the lone province speaking up for caution and moderation. However, that did not happen and it was because of the leadership of the Ontario Premier. That is exactly why it did not happen.

With the changes of leadership in Alberta and Quebec, we are going to see, on a continual basis, pressure not only from Ontario but also from all other provinces to ensure that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney does not sell us out to the American interests. If it is the intention of the member for Lincoln to try to unify different parts of the ministries in order to facilitate the availability of information, I think that is a good idea. However, if he wants to help Brian Mulroney through the back door, he is not going to get any help from us.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I am very pleased to rise and join this discussion. I very strongly support the resolution put forward by the member for Lincoln.

In order to get into this discussion, I want to take a few minutes, and I hope not too long, to talk about the problems of dealing with the present situation in taking countervail action or anti-dumping action in Canada. We do have a Special Import Measures Act which is under the



federal jurisdiction. The purpose of this act is to provide protection for Ontario producers, manufacturers, companies, farmers, or whomever, from unfair competition from outside sources—

**11:40 a.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** That is free trade. That is what Mulroney favours.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member for Niagara Falls is being a little too noisy.

**Mr. Stevenson:** The outside sources are marketing in Canada at lower prices than they sell on the home market. That is called dumping. It can also come from unfair or excessive subsidization in other jurisdictions. That is referred to in the act as subsidizing.

First, one has to prove that it is going on. As the member for Lincoln pointed out, one has to also prove there is damage to the domestic industry. If the whole procedure is completed and both those aspects are proven, then the federal government will take action and provide either a countervailing duty which responds to unfair subsidization or an antidumping duty that goes against the dumping action into this country.

Basically, the format is that one must provide a formal document which explains either the dumping or the subsidization that is occurring from the other country and, at that time, give at least some indication of damage. That document is filed with the customs and excise division of Revenue Canada. Within 21 days of that being filed, Revenue Canada can ask for any further documentation it feels it needs on the issue at hand. There is an additional 30-day period for it to launch an initial investigation.

At that point, it either rejects the claim or it goes on to initiate a further investigation into the issue if it looks as though some of the claims are correct. There is a 90-day period in which this additional investigation is carried on. It contacts exporters, importers and all people involved in the issue. It asks questions relating to either dumping or countervailing and then it reports its findings.

Three things can then happen. It can find that the application is not valid and it will drop the whole issue. It can talk to the country and the importers involved to get some sort of compromise on the issue. It would then go to the complainant group in Canada and decide whether that compromise would be acceptable.

An example is the importation of processed beef into Canada where Revenue Canada reached a compromise with the European Community beef exporters. The Canadian Cattlemen's Asso-

ciation would not accept that and it went to the third alternative, which was to announce a temporary duty. It then goes for a further study for the final determination, which is done by the Canadian Import Tribunal. It is a semi-independent group. Its duty is solely to determine whether damage is actually occurring. It has 120 days to study and announce its decision.

At that point, after its study on the damage to the domestic industry, the temporary duty can be dropped, maintained or increased. After the import tribunal announcement, Revenue Canada actually has a six-month period to make the final determination on what the duty should be.

The problem that our farm community is running into here is one of definition. There is no question that the Ontario government could assist our producers in improving the Special Import Measures Act to improve the definition of light goods and light industry. We currently have a court challenge against the Canadian cattlemen's submission on the importation of processed beef. The challenge basically comes down to the fact that our producers produce cattle and the importers are importing beef. The challenge says they are not light goods and, therefore, the issue as put forward by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association is invalid. Of course, as soon as those cattle go to market they become beef, and any fool knows they are light goods. However, they obviously are running into some difficulty on that issue.

The other thing that is a major problem is the funding. It has cost the Canadian Cattlemen's Association about \$100,000 to bring its submission forward. The Ontario Corn Producers' Association will have a similar cost. This is out of the realm of what many farm groups—and I suspect many manufacturing groups—can afford to spend to try to challenge some of these importations. There is no reason the government could not help in some way or other in relieving these groups of a portion of the cost and having the data bank available. The member for Lincoln had suggested that would be an important aspect of reducing the cost.

The provincial government can show leadership by having the experts available and having the data available. Right now, it is showing no leadership at all. An example is the lack of reaction to the US farm bill where Alberta, Saskatchewan, the federal government and the Ontario corn producers have all taken action and the provincial government is still totally silent on the issue. The other great indication of leadership it has taken is that it has closed two trade offices



in the US. That is a step backwards, not a step ahead.

One example of an Ontario producer group that could use the help would be our peanut producers. We have a clear indication of dumping of peanuts into the Canadian market. We have an infant industry of peanut growing and processing in this province that is under some real financial strain at the moment. Until new varieties are produced in Canada for the Ontario environment, it is going to continue to struggle for some years.

To take any action on the obvious dumping that is occurring in the Canadian market is absolutely impossible without at least a \$100,000 bill. They know they face that even before starting. If the provincial government could come forward and give them some support, it would be a real help to that very young and very small industry.

The financial assistance has to come indirectly, I am aware, but there have to be ways of doing it. I am sure the Americans and the Europeans would find ways of doing it if they had the opportunity.

11:50 a.m.

**Mr. Ramsay:** It is a pleasure to rise amid the hisses and boos of my own caucus members, whom I love and adore. Anyway, it is a pleasure to rise and speak in favour of this motion. Fortunately, I feel the language has been couched in such a fairly neutral way that we are able to do that. I share somewhat the concern of the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), who expressed his concerns about free trade, though upon reading this motion, it seems to be dealing fairly with the issue that there could also be potential damage from trade enhancement discussions. I think it is fairly well addressed and invites us to take a look at the matter and study it. We can support that.

It is quite timely, and I am pleased to see that this proposed unit would monitor and participate in the GATT talks. Until now and until the Tokyo discussions a few weeks ago among what I guess they call the Big Five, with the infamous rocket attack, GATT did not consider agricultural topics. The Prime Minister, trying to grapple with the farm problem, decided that might be the appropriate place to bring up these discussions. It is something that is really necessary, because what we have is about three major competing agricultural systems in this world. They govern themselves quite differently and they all have their own problems. What happens when it comes to exporting food is that in some cases

they add further subsidization to export those products and cause problems for other people. The European Community is one of these areas. This year we see two of them doing this.

I envy European farmers because they are allowed to grow all they want and they have terrifically high support prices. As a farmer, I would love to have it, but it is the ridiculous system to keep on producing food. For what reason? To encourage farmers from all 10 countries in Europe to keep producing food and to get into subsidies of about \$16 billion in 1984, as the European Community did, is absolutely ridiculous.

I do not suppose I would be so critical if it was their problem only, but then they decide to export that problem and create high agricultural subsidies in trading with Third World countries; so what we have is a flood on the market. For instance, France has got rid of surpluses of grain and chickens by offering extra low prices to foreign countries. This floods the Arab and other Third World countries in that part of the world and hampers our chances to export food to that area at a reasonable market price.

After France saw its share of the Algerian wheat market drop from 41 per cent to 16 per cent because of such tactics, the United States started to retaliate. We basically have trade wars going on out there where a country such as Canada cannot compete at all. It is something we have to study.

I also commend the member for Durham-York for speaking about the underfunding and the lack of resources commodity groups have in trying to grapple with these problems and research the areas and commodities that are being subsidized below the cost of production and are coming into our country and being dumped, as the expression goes. That is causing great harm to our farm economy. It is a real financial strain for our commodity groups to build a case. To build a case for the tariff board is very expensive and time-consuming. What we would have here is a database that could be accessed by the different commodity groups in preparing their cases. I am very much in favour of that. We need to see more support for commodity groups in defending themselves from commodities from other countries being dumped.

Trade enhancement, the euphemism for free trade, has been mentioned here, and it is something about which New Democrats and all of agriculture are concerned. If one looks at some of the statistics involving trade between our two countries, we are the losers. To open free trade



with the United States would basically devastate Ontario agriculture. There is surplus capacity in the US that could wipe us out in the production of eggs, chickens and commodities we thought were safe because they were highly perishable, such as milk and dairy products. Today, with modern transportation systems, we are no longer safe from that. Upper New York state could supply Ontario with dairy products if the gates were opened.

We have to be concerned not only about the farm industry as an industry, and that economy, but also about a way of life in this province, and it needs to be preserved for that reason also. We need to know where we stand and have a good database when it comes to free trade.

The other topic this unit could be looking at is the US Food Security Act, commonly known as the US farm bill. This probably will be of graver concern to us in the immediate future. The US has proposed to spend C\$73 billion over three years to subsidize American agriculture. The American farmers have a lot stronger lobby group than Canadian farmers do. They have really got to their politicians and they have a bill that is going to give them tremendous support in that industry. It is also going to hurt us as Ontario producers and Canadian producers.

I had trouble imagining what \$73 billion is. As a way to describe it, if a farmer went out and bought a \$62,000 tractor, he could do that every day from the very start of our calendar, when Christ was alive, through today and for another 200 years. He could purchase a \$62,000 tractor a day. That is how much money it is. It is a lot of money and it is massive support for American farmers, support that, no matter what the political will is in this country or province, we could not match. It is something we need to be on top of right away, something a unit could be investigating. It could also be proposing talks with our American counterparts to discuss how the bill will impact upon our industry.

It is of grave concern to farming, as we are in a free fall situation now. We do not need this extra, undue competition from the US Food Security Act. It is a very big concern to us over here. We need all the help we can get. If we can get a trade unit established in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food that can study this and can be accessible

to all the farm groups so they can prepare their own cases in defending their industry, it will be of assistance to the farm community and to the community of Ontario as a whole.

I rise today in support of this and I hope my fellow members will also.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I thank members for their words of encouragement and support. It was somewhat significant that the member for Essex North (Mr. Hayes) and the member for Essex South both rose to speak on this resolution, because they represent areas where agricultural commodities are predominant and where such a creative initiative as has been proposed in this resolution would have its greatest impact.

I was somewhat shocked, though, at the words of the member for Essex South. He obviously missed the boat. I am not sure whether he supports the resolution. He disagrees with the wording. The wording to me to some degree is a matter of semantics, but he attempted throughout his remarks to impute motives on my behalf, suggesting I was assisting the Prime Minister of Canada and all sorts of things, which indicate his lack of background in the agricultural industry.

That lack of background speaks quite clearly to his misunderstanding of the intent of the resolution. Obviously, he does not sense the frustrations shown by the industry in the GATT discussions, particularly producers of pork, cattle, wine, fruit and vegetables. These products impinge very heavily on the riding he represents, and he has completely missed his opportunity to speak on behalf of his constituents in this Legislature in support of this resolution.

Again, I thank all honourable members for their support and appreciate this opportunity.

#### FLOOD INSURANCE

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Haggerty has moved resolution 31.

Motion agreed to.

#### TRADE UNIT

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Andrewes has moved resolution 34.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12 noon.



## AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

## ESTIMATES

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** I have here a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor signed by his own hand.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1987, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly. This was signed by Lincoln Alexander, dated Toronto, May 22, 1986.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

## RIVER BANK EROSION

**Mr. Gillies:** I want to advise the House of the rather serious situation threatening the east end of my riding in Brantford. Weather conditions and the pattern of movements of the Grand River have led to serious bank erosion, threatening seven or eight properties in the east end of Brantford. The mayor and I toured these properties last night, and it is very apparent to us that if there is further rain, there could be further damage. I understand from phoning down in the last couple of minutes that there has been another five or six feet of erosion since last night.

The families affected, of course, have had to evacuate their homes. They are aware that their insurance policies will not cover this type of damage, which I am sure is no surprise to members, and I am calling today on the province to assist these families either in the relocation they will need if they cannot return to their homes or in restorative measures to the bank for those properties that might be salvageable.

I understand there is provision for a capital relocation fund to be made available by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Grand River Conservation Authority and the municipality. This has been done in the past, I believe, in Onondaga township in Brant county and, I am advised by the former Minister of Natural Resources, in Thunder Bay. I call upon the ministers involved to devote their energies towards providing some sort of salvation or compensation for these families who are losing their homes.

## EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** Later today, the government will have the opportunity to move Bill 94

back to the Legislature for clause-by-clause debate. Several weeks ago, the government put Bill 94 on the back burner of the standing committee on social development agenda. It stated that its reason for doing this was to allow free and fair negotiation with the Ontario Medical Association. Eleven meetings later, the OMA's position has not changed; the OMA continues to want to be able to extra bill.

The OMA's current position, as outlined in the Toronto Star today, has not changed from its 1978 position when they negotiated an agreement with the then Minister of Health, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell). The fact is, the doctors in this province want to continue to extra bill and the people of this province want a ban on extra billing. The former Minister of Health, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) learned that when he wanted to force the doctors at least to give advance notice on extra billing. He had to change the Health Disciplines Act to enforce that.

The solution to this problem is through legislation. It is time for the Legislature to act today. In the standing committee on social development, I will move a motion that Bill 94 be reported back to the Legislature. That will give us the opportunity to deal with the bill clause by clause, put forward positive suggestions and amendments to the legislation and then enact it into law. I hope we can expect the support of the Liberal Party and perhaps even of the Conservative Party today.

## KITCHENER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Mr. D. R. Cooke:** Last evening I had the privilege of sitting down with about 800 other members of the Kitchener Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the chamber. It was during the months of April, May and June 1886 that 63 Berlin merchants and industrialists began the Berlin Board of Trade.

The interesting part is that since that time the Berlin Board of Trade and the Kitchener Chamber of Commerce have consistently been an energetic, innovative force in our community. The board of trade and the chamber of commerce made the initial efforts in the formation of a gas company to light our streets, the Berlin-Waterloo Hospital and the Berlin-Waterloo Street Railway. They have worked for paved roads, fire protection, sewage service, etc., and for 100



years they have been working for decent mail delivery.

I congratulate the chamber, its 1,000 member firms, its 1,400 members, president Sid Bergstein, president-elect Gary Alcock and general manager Jack Middlemass on an excellent and auspicious event last evening.

#### PARALEGALS

**Mr. O'Connor:** I wish to announce to the House that today I will introduce for first reading legislation to regulate paralegal agents in Ontario. There is a burgeoning profession of people serving the obvious needs of the consumer for competent and affordable representation in traffic court, small claims court, landlord and tenant tribunals and immigration proceedings. At present they are unregulated, leaving the public at risk from the very few who are unqualified.

The Law Society of Upper Canada has laid charges against some paralegals for practising law without a licence. Those charges have been dismissed by the courts. The government acknowledges the need to move into the field but has failed to date to take any of the necessary steps to ensure public protection.

This bill will regulate the activities of paralegal agents in prescribed courts and tribunals. It establishes the paralegal agents committee to make regulations with respect to the standards of admission and qualification for paralegal agents. The bill also provides for the disciplining of such agents.

I wish to thank Brian Lawrie of the Independent Paralegal Guild of Ontario for his and the guild's significant contribution to the development of this legislation. Mr. Lawrie is seated in the members' gallery, and I ask him to rise and allow the House to acknowledge his presence.

#### SENTENCING OF POLLUTERS

**Mrs. Grier:** A court decision in Toronto made yesterday a very significant day in the history of environmental law. For the first time in Canada, the president of a company that has been a persistent polluter has been sentenced to a year in jail. In addition, the company was fined \$200,000. Contrast this with the \$16,000 fine that was all the provincial government could have levied against Dow Chemical for a perchloroethylene spill that contaminated the St. Clair River.

Metropolitan Toronto is to be commended for the strength of its resolve. It has been prepared to do what the Ministry of the Environment has not yet done: to get tough with polluters and to treat

offences against the environment as the white-collar crimes they are. We will not stop pollution without getting convictions against offenders and levying fines that are so high they cannot be considered a cost of doing business.

Last November, we in the New Democratic Party released a nine-point program for cleaning up the environment. We called for improved enforcement and higher fines, the jailing of corporate executives if spills were found to be deliberate, a superfund for chemical cleanups and improved regulations for air and water emissions. It is time for the Ministry of the Environment to assume its responsibilities and to get on with cleaning up our environment. It is time to get on with doing the job.

#### FREE TRADE

**Mr. D. R. Cooke:** Today and all this week Canada's representatives and those of the United States will be sitting down to discuss a free trade agreement between our two countries. The US representative, Peter Murphy, says everything is on the bargaining table and the purpose of these talks is the complete removal of nontariff barriers between the two countries. He also says he does not know what Canadians mean by the word "culture," and he suspects it is another word for protectionism.

I believe Mr. Murphy should be informed that the American term for culture is "national security." He should be prepared at the bargaining table to remove all nontariff barriers to the US. That means, if necessary, dismantling the American defence industry, the space program and the Star Wars project; abolishing all counter-vail procedures; removing mortgage deductibility from the workers' homes in the US, and removing all farm support systems and thereby, if necessary, allowing American farmers to starve.

He should come to the bargaining table with all 435 congressmen, all 100 senators and all 50 states in line. In short, he should be prepared, if necessary, to dismantle the American way as we know it today.

#### PHYSIOTHERAPY

**Mr. Andrewes:** This afternoon I will table a petition signed by some 8,000 people in support of the Ontario Physiotherapy Association. The petition calls on the government to end the inequity that currently exists between the fee the Ontario health insurance plan pays to medical doctors for physiotherapy services and the fee it pays to physiotherapists.



The frustration of this group of health care professionals sparked a rally today. Physiotherapy is a profession that is dominated by women. Last December the president of the Ontario Physiotherapy Association asked the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to test the principle of equality that he espoused in the last election. The government has dragged its feet for a year on this issue. If it believes in equal pay principles, it should practise what it preaches.

2:12 p.m.

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

### EXTRA BILLING

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I would like to bring the members of the House up to date about the government's plans to end extra billing by doctors in this province. The government has met with the Ontario Medical Association over the past 10 months. We have had a number of informal discussions and a series of 11 formal meetings. Regrettably, we were unable to reach a negotiated settlement, something the government had genuinely hoped to achieve.

The OMA representatives were unable to accept the basic principle underlying our national health care system, that no patient should have to pay extra for medical services that are supposed to be publicly insured in the first place. The government believes this principle is fundamental and cannot be compromised.

We have two extremely important reasons for proceeding: (1) to protect patients from having to pay extra charges and (2) to permit our government to reclaim the \$53 million a year currently being withheld from the people of Ontario by the federal government because some doctors continue to extra bill.

Accordingly, we will be moving to pass the legislation ending extra billing as quickly as possible. I have therefore asked that the bill now be reported back to the House by the standing committee on social development.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Briefly, I want to comment on the statement made by the Minister of Health. We are somewhat disappointed that the minister has to come before the House to make such a statement and that he has to say in the statement that he and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) have been unable to reach a negotiated settlement with the Ontario Medical Association.

I remind the minister, the Attorney General and the government as a whole that to make a negotiated settlement, it takes two sides willing to enter fairly and reasonably into negotiations,

not a government that is inflexible, that refuses to move its position and that sits at the table and simply ignores what the other side is offering.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I assure the government that the interests of democracy and the people of this province will be represented as we thoroughly debate Bill 94.

**Mr. Rae:** In response to the Minister of Health, one always has to have a sense of irony in this business or else one would go absolutely bananas. I have listened to the gobbledegook from his mouth and from the mouth of his leader for so long. Just 10 days ago, I personally was described as draconian and dictatorial for making the revolutionary proposal that we should be dealing with the legislation. What was dictatorial and draconian 10 days ago is apparently today the height of democratic and sensible activity.

The minister has had 10 months of so-called negotiations with the Ontario Medical Association, during which time the OMA has not changed a single position with respect to the principle. It appears the Ontario government has not changed its mind either. All I can say is that it has taken the minister a long time to recognize what all of us on this side of the House have recognized, that it is absolutely essential for extra billing to be ended. It should have been ended a long time ago, and there is no further reason for any delay whatsoever.

We look forward to participating in the debate, but we also look forward to the passage of the legislation. I am sure the minister is aware that if the government agrees to support the motion that stands in the name of my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) today in committee, the bill can be reported to the House on Monday and we can begin to debate the legislation on Wednesday. There is no reason or excuse for further delay, and I do not think the people of the province will accept it.

I am interested to see that one of the reasons the government has to proceed is "to protect patients from having to pay extra charges." I am delighted to see that statement, particularly in view of the number of times I have asked him about this. I will make it part of my statement today. We believe patients in the province should not have to pay for the delay, the dilatoriness and the dithering that have been part of the Liberal government's approach to this issue for several months. We believe those patients should be compensated by the government with part of the



money that will come from Ottawa and now held in escrow.

We look forward to patients not having to pay extra charges, but not only as of whenever the bill is passed, because that is a matter that remains to be seen. They should be compensated back to the time when this legislation was anticipated and promised, when the leader signed the accord and when the government indicated the legislation would be forthcoming. The patients should not have to pay through the nose for the government's inability to make up its mind as to what needed to be done.

### FOREST FIRES

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** In view of the Terrace Bay evacuation and recent serious fires in eastern Canada, I will bring the members of the House up to date on yesterday's incident and on the forest fire situation in general across the province at this time.

Yesterday afternoon approximately one third of the 2,600 residents of Terrace Bay were evacuated to nearby towns when a 250-hectare blaze threatened an outlying subdivision. A preliminary fire investigation indicates the blaze may have been the result of work being done on the CP Rail line nearby.

Despite strong winds and quick spread, Ministry of Natural Resources forest firefighters and air attack teams, working with municipal firefighters, local police and fire teams from the Kimberly-Clark mill, were able to take quick action. The first report of the fire came at 2:20 p.m. The evacuation began at 3 p.m. By 7 p.m. residents were back in their homes. No one was injured and no private property was damaged by fire.

The firefighters were backed up by four MNR helicopters—and I hope my critics will change that number—and five heavy water bombers, including a CL-215 that had just returned from firefighting in New Brunswick. By the way, both CL-215 water bombers that were sent down east are now back in Ontario.

At this moment, the Terrace Bay fire is in good shape. Fifty MNR firefighters are manning a hose line that completely surrounds the fire, and water bombers are continuing to work the edges of the fire area. There is no further damage to the town.

One of the heavy water bombers working on the fire was involved in a mishap while picking up water. The aircraft is beached on Hays Lake about 10 kilometres west of Terrace Bay. No injuries occurred.

The Terrace Bay incident is a very timely reminder that the fire season is under way and that everyone has to be extremely careful.

Right now, there are 21 forest fires burning in the province, four of them not under control. The largest blaze is 32 kilometres northwest of Red Lake, a 480-hectare fire that is being attacked and is not a threat to the town.

The western half of northern Ontario is definitely the area that bears watching. The fire hazard rating in this area ranges from high to extreme. Forest fire officials do not expect any change in this for at least the next four days. Additional fire crews and equipment are being moved into the area to provide backup to local firefighters.

In the eastern half of northern Ontario and in the Algonquin region, the fire hazard is moderate.

**Mr. Rae:** We very much appreciate the statement the Minister of Natural Resources made today. It brings home to me in particularly the nature of the risk facing many communities in the sense that it was only on Thursday that I was in Terrace Bay for the entire day. At that time, we were discussing with many people the fact that it had been a dry period for some time and that apparently there was a greater risk.

As we hear of the water bombers that are being used, it reminds us once again of the fact that instead of a government jet, we have water bombers that are being used, and gives us a chance to reflect on the wisdom of that decision that was taken some time ago.

### DISASTER RELIEF

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** I wish to take this opportunity to present to the Legislature Chief George Hunter of the Winisk band council, who is seated in the members' gallery.

As members are aware, the village of Winisk has undergone extensive damage as a result of flash flooding last Friday. Let me reiterate the deep concern of all members over this tragedy. At 11 o'clock this morning, the woman who was missing was found dead.

In a flooding tragedy, funds are hard to get. I ask all members to help to collect funds through their riding offices. Yesterday, I was told by the municipal people that when there is flooding, money is very scarce because of a lack of sympathy for people who have built homes near a river. I ask members to help with this.

**Mr. Pope:** With respect to the statement by the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, I want to speak directly to the honourable



chief on behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus in this House and say we extend our deep condolences to him and his people for their recent loss in this very tragic natural disaster. We assure him of our support for the efforts which must surely come from this government, not from private pockets but from the government, to support him and his people in recovering from this disaster, in relocating their village and in getting on with their lives in their own community of Winisk.

**Mr. Rae:** First, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, I would like to express our feelings of sadness to Chief Hunter on the loss of two of the members of his band in the recent flooding in Winisk. I hope the chief will convey, on behalf of the whole assembly, our own feeling of loss in this House because of what has happened.

I hope as well that he will know he has a great many friends in court in this Legislature fighting for the cause of his band. I and my colleagues in the official opposition are more than happy to raise questions and to raise issues with the government, both publicly and privately, to make sure his band gets the assistance it is fully entitled to from the Ontario government. We are more than prepared to work with him in that regard.

#### RESIGNATION OF PREMIER BENNETT

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I have just received notice that Premier Bennett of British Columbia has announced his intention to resign and has called a leadership contest.

Just before I came into the House, I had an opportunity to phone Premier Bennett and express my personal best wishes to him. He has served British Columbia for 12 and a half years. He has arranged for a stunning exposition of Canada's wares for the world in Expo 86, which I believe will be a fitting testimonial to his long reign. It has been a controversial one, but as someone who has come to know him fairly well at the councils of first ministers across this country, he has provided great leadership. This country will miss his leadership and his single-minded determination in a large number of areas.

We have again seen the resignation of a politician who has made a great contribution to this country. I know that every member of this Legislature wishes him well.

**Mr. Pope:** First, with respect to the statement of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on the resignation of Premier Bennett, I wish to say that many of us in this caucus had the opportunity to meet with

Premier Bennett and members of his cabinet over a period of years. We enjoyed the camaraderie. We enjoyed the federal-provincial meetings with Premier Bennett and the members of his cabinet. We regret his departure. We wish him well in retirement and we wish the government of British Columbia well as it chooses a successor.

2:27 p.m.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Pope:** It is out of worry and concern for the thousands of workers in northern Ontario, their families and the communities of the north that I rise to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. What specific, immediate and concrete programs for industrial development and job creation does the minister have for northern Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** The member was absent on a few days, as I mentioned last week, when several initiatives were mentioned by the Treasurer. The Treasurer mentioned several initiatives that were being opened up in the north. We have taken several initiatives such as the new ventures program, which we hope will create a lot of new jobs in the small business sector. We are looking at opening additional offices of the Ontario Development Corp. in the north. As the member knows, there is no easy solution when we have the job losses that we have.

**Mr. Martel:** What you are saying is that you have nothing.

**Mr. Pope:** As the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) of the New Democratic Party says, what that means is the minister has nothing.

I was in Timmins yesterday, where 269 salaried workers at Kidd Creek mine were given layoff notices effective immediately and on September 2, and there are another 180 contract employees whose contracts will not be renewed. That is in addition to layoffs in Elliot Lake, Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and Terrace Bay, and impending layoffs in Thunder Bay.

In the face of all these layoffs over the past few months, why is the minister so paralysed by the situation? Why can he not act and put in place job creation programs?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** The member mentioned several areas where there have been job losses, and they are of great concern to us. One thing he neglected to mention was that when his government was in power and when he was minister, the jobs at Algoma Steel dropped from 12,000 to 8,000, a loss of 4,000 jobs. I can only say we are



not looking for short-term solutions. We are looking for long-term solutions that will create additional jobs in the north.

**Mr. Pope:** In other words, the workers in northern Ontario can go to hell in the short term as far as the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology is concerned.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The time for members' statements has expired. Final supplementary.

**Mr. Pope:** Quite right. The minister wanted to give me a history lesson. The history lesson is this: There is nothing in the accord, with the exception of youth employment, that has job creation as its goal. There is nothing in the speech from the throne on job creation, a fact I raised with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) the day after the speech from the throne. There is nothing in this budget that is going to offer any immediate job creation programs for the workers of northern Ontario.

Why will the minister not look at the alternatives? Why will he not look at things such as the bridge employment programs that we began in 1983? Why will he not look at accelerated electromagnetic exploration of our mineral deposits in the north? Why will he not look at putting in place portable mills for small and medium-sized mines so that they can go into production and create mining jobs in the north? There is a whole range of capital options—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member has placed three questions already.

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** To deal with the three questions, or at least with one or two of them, if the previous minister, now the member, were to look at both the speech from the throne and the budget, he would see many things in there that are helping, as I have just stated. There are no short-term answers to this. This government, under the Premier and all of the ministers, is working very hard to put into place something that will help with jobs in the north.

#### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Andrewes:** My question is for the Minister of Health. A press report today indicates that the Ontario Medical Association, in its discussions with the minister and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) last Tuesday, offered to provide all medical services to anyone in any community in the province at the Ontario health insurance plan rates. Can the minister confirm that this offer was made to him?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I would like to comment about the article that appeared in one of the

papers. I can tell the honourable gentleman that the essence of this proposal enshrines in it for ever, and asks the government to condone, a two-tiered system of medicine that we do not think will form the basis of good medical care in this province. We cannot sign a document that enshrines this principle in health care in this province.

**Mr. Andrewes:** The minister is admitting there was a document and there was an offer to that end. I see the minister nodding.

The OMA has offered to provide a full range of services to senior citizens, people on public assistance programs and people receiving emergency care at the OHIP rate. The minister has now confirmed that the doctors have further offered to provide a full range of services to anyone, anywhere, at the OHIP rate.

In his statement, the minister said "no patient should have to pay extra for medical services that are supposed to be publicly insured in the first place." Contrary to what the minister said in his statement, they have now made the two offers that would satisfy this point. What counterproposal has the government made to attempt to make these discussions meaningful, or have these so-called negotiations simply been an exercise in futility?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** If the honourable gentlemen reads the document, as I know he has, he will see that there is no guarantee that every patient in this province will be able to receive insured services at the OHIP rate.

**Mr. Andrewes:** That is not true.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** That is right. What is in that document is a request of this government to endorse the fact that people in this province will have to pay extra for medically necessary treatment that is insured anyway. We cannot do that. That is not the basis on which this country has operated its medical care system for a long time.

While I have the opportunity, I will also add that, in effect, an offer not dissimilar to this one was made back in 1978 with respect to services delivered in hospitals. I can tell the honourable gentleman and the people of this province that we have seen that this voluntary system has not functioned properly. When people go to hospitals in this province, they do suffer extra billing for insured medical services. That has a great deal to do with why the offer was not acceptable.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I listened carefully to the minister's answer, and he has not named one single item of compromise that he has brought to



that discussion. He has indicated in this statement that he has been negotiating. He has had 11 formal negotiating meetings. He accepts the fact that the doctors have offered substantive concessions to provide services at the medicare rate, but neither he nor the Attorney General has brought any meaningful concessions to these discussions.

**Mr. McClellan:** Speech, speech.

**Mr. Breaugh:** This is a really good speech. Do not interrupt it.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Listen, you guys put them there.

**Mr. Martel:** Thank God we did it. You guys would not do it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. All interjections are out of order. Place the final supplementary, please.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Now that the minister has turned his back on good-faith bargaining—

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Mr. Andrewes:** —and is attempting to provoke a situation which people in this province may not—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Are you going to place the question? Please do, immediately.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Now that the minister has turned his back on good-faith bargaining, what is he going to do to provide medical services to the people of this province?

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I have to apologize. Just as the member was finishing his question, the group erupted into a considerable amount of cheers because he was able to get to the point at last. I am sorry; I did not hear his question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Because of the length of the preamble to the question, will members of the House allow him to ask the question? Very briefly.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Is the minister attempting to disrupt the medical care system of this province by his bad-faith bargaining?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** That was a longer question than the one he asked. I know that much without hearing the words. My answer to this gentleman is no, we are not disrupting the medical system in this province. We are ensuring that it continues to exist as an insured benefit to all of the people, not just some of the people, of this province.

We in this party are not prepared to see one single person being required to pay extra for insured medical services in this province. That is the bottom line for us. It may be something different for the member, but we want a system

that provides the same high level of medical care to all people, no matter what their means, and not a system where they are required to put their bank balance on the line.

**Mr. Rae:** What was draconian 10 days ago and a safety valve two years ago seems to have changed. All we can say on this side is thank goodness, let us get on with it.

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr. Rae:** My question is to the Minister of Labour. Can the minister explain why it is still the practice of the Workers' Compensation Board to deny on a systematic basis compensation to miners with various cancers and to their widows and survivors who are applying for compensation in their names? As he will know, there is more than ample scientific evidence which very clearly establishes that gold miners, uranium miners, mixed-ore miners and silver miners are all far more likely than the general population to get lung cancer, tracheal cancer, bronchial cancer and stomach cancer. Can he explain why those cases are still being systematically denied by the WCB?

2:40 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Wyre:** The leader of the third party is correct in that in some cases of lung cancer there has been acceptance of claims and in many other forms of cancer there has been no acceptance. The basis of those denials of claims has been the view of the board that no direct link has been established in individual case to individual case, despite the higher-than-normal mortality rate among the miners from those kinds of cancers.

As the honourable gentleman knows, phase 2 of the study by Dr. Muller is due, is now out for peer review and should be available by the end of this spring, some time next month. As well, the member will know we are imminently putting in place the members of the Industrial Disease Standards Panel, and they will be able to offer advice to the Workers' Compensation Board on this important issue.

**Mr. Rae:** I wonder who Dr. Muller's peers are at the Workers' Compensation Board, the Atomic Energy Control Board or the Ministry of Labour, all of which, we understand, have now had copies of this report for several weeks, if not months. Since he raised the question of the Muller report, will the minister tell us why this report has been going around the bureaucracy but has not been given in any way, shape or form to the workers involved or affected or to their



families? Can he tell us why that is being allowed by his ministry?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** Yes, I would be pleased to. The member is correct in that officials of the ministry and the board—and I am not sure whether the Atomic Energy Control Board has, but certainly the other two—have had copies of the draft study by Dr. Muller for some time now, since March I believe. The matter is out for review by Dr. Muller's peers, scientists who are available.

I anticipated this question and I want to say two things to the member.

**Mr. Speaker:** Briefly.

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I say this to the steelworkers union and others as well: If the steelworkers union wishes to appoint a peer representative, a scientist, to peer review this draft report, it can do so. I am also authorized to say Dr. Muller will be pleased if, when the final, official report is issued, we also issue the original draft at that time.

**Mr. Rae:** I have a copy of an advertisement, which admittedly ran several years ago, from the Industrial Accident Prevention Association. Since that time, it has run a series of ads with respect to workers in this province that most people would find offensive. They make the argument that it is the workers themselves who are responsible for their illnesses, not some other agency or the employers.

Through the Workers' Compensation Board, the government is spending literally more than \$35 million for those accident prevention associations, at the same time as the steelworkers and other trade unions that are attempting to represent their members are getting no compensation or funding. Can the minister explain why that double standard exists, with this kind of sexist nonsense going on in the name of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, when nothing is being done for anybody else?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** Let me say at the outset that I personally resent this kind of ad. As the honourable member points out, it is several years old. I trust it will not happen again. This government does not appreciate nor support it. It has been openly critical of this kind of ad in general.

Beyond that, on the comparison with the amount of money received by the accident prevention associations, we can have a good debate in the standing committee on public accounts and elsewhere, and I know we will, about whether that money is being well spent and

whether we are getting good value for our money. The member will know the initiatives we have taken.

It is rather unfair to compare that with the compensation issue. It is a case of comparing apples and oranges. The ability of workers to attempt to get redress and compensation will be enhanced by the second Muller study and by the Industrial Disease Standards Panel.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I remind members of standing order 29(e). It says, "In putting an oral question, no argument or opinion is to be offered nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain the same; and in answering any such question, the member is not to debate the matter to which it refers."

New question, the member for York South.

**Mr. Rae:** I do not know why I am getting singled out for this treatment, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask another question of the Minister of Labour, asking it as clearly as I am able. Can he confirm, as stated yesterday in the report issued by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, that as of May 1985 there has been an official policy of his ministry, which is that inspectors are no longer going to be making regular cycle inspections with respect to industrial sites; rather, it is simply going to be responding to emergencies, to crises and to calls into the ministry with respect to a particular problem.

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I think the member is referring to the so-called code 99s. While I do not have a complete report, I do know of the existence of code 99s. They do exist. They are, as I understand it, in effect to remove from the regular inspection rotation those work places which are not viewed to have serious hazards on an ongoing basis and, combined with that, a clean bill of health over a period of time. It allows the ministry inspectors to focus their monitoring and enforcement activities on those work places where it is most important.

Obviously, if we were to investigate every work place every three or six months or every year, we would not need 250 inspectors; we would need thousands of inspectors.

**Mr. Rae:** Maybe the minister ought to give the workers more power to enforce the act themselves. If he cannot do the job through his inspectors, maybe he ought to be giving the working people of this province the right to do that, so that we will not have the number of deaths, accidents and illnesses we have today. That is supposed to be the minister's job. That is why he is there.



**Mr. Speaker:** Is that the supplementary question?

**Mr. Rae:** No, my supplementary follows from that.

Is the minister aware of the fact that it is the view of his inspectors—and it is shocking the minister has chosen not to make a statement on this report—that the change eliminating regular inspections is little more than a public relations exercise; that it is outrageous that there are more unregistered work places than there are registered work places and it is even more outrageous that the ministry is now bent on a policy of eliminating many thousands of work places from the regular inspection process? That is the view of the minister's own employees. Why does he not have the guts to make a statement in this House with respect to that point of view.

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I am aware that view is stated in the document which was given to me yesterday. The document is a very serious one and raises a number of fundamental and important issues for the ministry.

I can only say to the honourable member that we have been reviewing the document and the concerns and allegations contained therein. I expect I will have something to say, not in answer to oral questions, as the member has pointed out, but by way of a statement probably on Monday or Tuesday of next week.

**Mr. Rae:** I want to go back to the question of funding. Since the minister knows the steelworkers trade union, in particular, has asked him directly for funding to be able to fight the cases, to fight the Workers' Compensation Board on all those cases that have yet to be recognized by the board, and there are literally hundreds of them, why does he continue to deny that funding while at the same time the Workers' Compensation Board is funding the Industrial Accident Prevention Association?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The question has been asked.

**2:50 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** The honourable member will know that last year, for the first time, the Occupational Health and Safety Education Authority, in effect, publicly funded the Ontario Federation of Labour to the tune of \$400,000. The member will know, and so will my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), that the 1985-86 funding has this year been increased to \$1.8 million.

That shows a substantial commitment on the part of this government of public funds to get on

with the job. Even if we fund it more, I do not think the OFL or others will be in a position in the short period of time to put together the kinds of programs to get full value for money. We are reviewing this on an ongoing basis and we are well aware of the views of the trade union movement that additional funding is necessary. We will continue to monitor that.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Pope:** Because this is such a serious issue for workers and their families in northern Ontario, I would like to go back to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. By way of explanation only, I remind the minister that the Premier on April 12, in commenting on the Burns Meats closure in Kitchener, said, "There will be no higher priority for me as the Premier of this province than to create real and lasting jobs," but by October 2 he was quoted in the Toronto Star as saying in Sudbury, "There are economic realities that we have to accept in terms of layoffs in northern Ontario."

We have seen a rapid acceleration of layoffs in the past couple of months in the resource sector of northern Ontario affecting virtually every single community.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Mr. Pope:** The minister has had an opportunity to study the situation. He is in charge of the development of industrial strategy for this province. What are his concrete plans to help the workers in the north of this province in the short term, right now, and in the long term?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** I cannot understand why the member does not listen closely. We have done things in the speech from the throne and in the budget. All the ministers of this government along with the Premier are looking at long-range job-creation programs.

**Mr. Pope:** Many options are available to this government. By way of explanation only, it could look at thermomechanical pulp plants in Timmins and Sault Ste. Marie. It could look at tax changes to accelerate depreciation or raise the depreciation ceiling on new mining equipment. It could look at accelerated capital construction for hospital projects in northern Ontario, at medical research facilities, at a medical school in northern Ontario, at a training school for medical technicians; there are lots of options.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Mr. Pope:** Why does this government think the only thing it should do in northern Ontario is to make cameo appearances at cabinet meetings?



When are they going to get off their butts and do something for the north?

**Hon. Mr. Eakins:** Now you have all the answers.

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** As the member says, how come he has all the answers now? There were a lot of job losses when he was in government. He will find that this government is going to look at it and is going to do something to help the north.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I will just wait until the debate stops.

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr. Martel:** I hope they do more than the Tories did when we lost 12,000 jobs in Sudbury.

My question is for the Minister of Labour. The report prepared by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union on behalf of the inspectors states: "There was a reluctance on the part of senior bureaucrats to prosecute. Two hundred and sixty-three charges were laid in this fiscal year to date. Only 58 charges succeeded in convictions and some 202 charges were either dismissed or withdrawn, the same pattern as existed in previous years."

Will the minister explain why his legal branch is so inadequately prepared when it presents its cases? Is it true that some of his legal people have not shown up for the hearings? Is it not time the act was modified so that it has some teeth to protect the workers of this province?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** That is a number of questions which lead in a lot of different directions. Let me deal with the legal situation. I asked my officials some two weeks ago, because of the numbers that were coming through on prosecution requests, to review on an urgent basis the need for additional legal staff. The report suggests the legal staff is undermanned and, consequently, the cases are often not prepared as well as they might be.

I can only say I have had a preliminary indication that additional legal staff will be needed. I intend to deal with that on a priority basis because it is important to me that once we launch prosecutions, we give them every chance of success. I can also indicate to the honourable member that, with respect to those specific allegations, I have asked for a report on the number of successful prosecutions.

**Mr. Martel:** The ministry might want to hire Sopinka or Robinette again.

The report states, "Because of inadequate staffing, inspectors are rarely briefed for court

appearances before the case proceeds." Can the minister indicate why, in the prosecution of Perley Hospital on April 28 of this year, the union witnesses were never approached? The hospital was documented when it got to the hearing, the Ministry of Labour was not and the ministry lost the case. How in God's name could that happen?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I obviously cannot give the member an answer to that kind of specific question dealing with a specific instance. I will take the question as notice and get back to the honourable member.

#### SENTENCING OF POLLUTERS

**Mr. Offer:** I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday the owner of Jetco Manufacturing in North York was sentenced to a year in jail for repeated pollution offences. With respect to the Environmental Protection Act and the Ontario Water Resources Act, is the imposition of a jail sentence now available under those acts?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The problem is that in this particular case the person was jailed for contempt of court, or at least a jail sentence was levied by the judge for contempt of court and not because of the violation of the act.

When something is under appeal, one is not allowed to comment in detail, but in very general terms I can say it is encouraging to see that—

Interjection.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** It is not sub judice, as the member for Carlton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling) says.

**Mr. Speaker:** Please disregard the interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** However, it is under appeal. I can comment generally that I am encouraged by this kind of judgement and it sends a very good message. However, at present there is not sufficient provision within our legislation to ensure that this could be done for a reason other than contempt of court.

#### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Andrewes:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am informed that the Ontario Medical Association plans a province-wide walkout next Thursday and Friday and will be providing emergency services only.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is your question whether the minister is aware?

Interjections.



**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Once again I will remind members that they are wasting much time when other members could be asking questions.

### PHYSIOTHERAPY

**Mr. Andrewes:** I am amazed at the flippancy of the government members over that kind of statement.

My question is to the Minister of Health. The minister will know that negotiations between his ministry and the Ontario Physiotherapy Association have bogged down. Is he now prepared to negotiate with the Ontario Physiotherapy Association on the basis of parity?

**3 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Yes. The honourable gentleman knows the problem that confronts us in a number of areas is a result of some historical neglect with respect to keeping people current. The member knows and I know we cannot move in the course of a few short months to make everything right that has gone wrong in the past. However, we are working very hard at it.

With respect to our discussions with the physiotherapists, I indicated I was willing to move much beyond the four per cent world in which we found ourselves last year and to make very real progress towards eliminating some of the gap that was described on the radio this morning and presumably to the member when he appeared with the group this morning outside the House.

I have committed myself to making real progress, but in all conscience I cannot move to eliminate the entire gap, which would be something like 15 per cent, all at one time. I have committed myself to working progressively towards resolving that gap, and I will continue to work on that basis.

**Mr. Andrewes:** The minister referred to the historical problem. This problem started one year ago. His ministry has not offered to close the gap; it has offered to leave a gap that amounts to 15 cents. Will the minister negotiate in good faith? This is a profession that is dominated by women.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order; the member asked his question.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Surely the minister wants to sit down and negotiate with them in good faith.

**Mr. Speaker:** As soon as I can hear, we will proceed.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I have sat down with the group and I have acknowledged that there is a gap. I have moved a considerable way to try to eliminate that gap. I am prepared to work with

them progressively during the next several months to do more. I have moved from a four per cent world to an area of settlement for this year, for instance, that would amount to an offer of somewhere around 12 per cent. I can tell the gentleman that goes a long way to reducing that gap. It does not eliminate it; I acknowledge that.

At this time, I cannot move when all the areas in health care right across this province are looking for extra funds. I have to manage in a fiscally responsible manner. I have to take the steps we can reasonably take. I can do it in looking at a long-term solution. I have committed myself and I will continue to commit myself to reducing the gap about which he spoke.

### TOBACCO IMPORTS

**Mr. Ramsay:** I have a question for the Premier. In keeping with the decline of our domestic tobacco industry, which especially affects southwestern Ontario, does the Premier condone the importation of tobacco from South Africa and other countries by the South African-based tobacco company, Rothmans of Pall Mall?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I am not aware of the specific facts raised by the member. In general terms, it is not something that would make me very happy. Perhaps he is aware of some information I am not aware of.

**Mr. Ramsay:** I will be glad to send over to the Premier some clippings about this that have been in the business section of the Globe and Mail recently. It is quite serious to the constituency of southwestern Ontario.

In the same vein, does the government condone the importation of tobacco that is grown with pesticides such as DDT and many other chemicals that are forbidden, and rightly so, to the producers of southwestern Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** We are obviously not in favour of trading with countries that take unfair advantage of us. Frankly, I am not up to speed on the issues raised by the member, but I will raise them with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), and perhaps he can shed some light on them. I will be very happy to share with the member any information we have on that matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Labour has a response to a question asked previously.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** On May 13, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) asked a question concerning a worker who was killed by an



asphalt truck while working at a construction site in Oshawa in November 1985.

During our investigation into the matter, an order under the construction regulation was issued to the contractor to provide a signalman to direct the operators of dump trucks. The ministry has no evidence that the order issued was ignored. No complaints about noncompliance with the ministry order were received in the district office. When the inspector made his next routine inspection, the project had been completed.

The honourable member also asked whether the ministry intended to prosecute in this matter. As he knows, it is the policy of the ministry not to reveal whether a prosecution will proceed until an information has been sworn.

On Tuesday, the member also asked about Campbell Red Lake and the Hens fatality. I can tell him only that the time constraints in terms of the decision on when to make a prosecution—he raised those time constraints—are from the date of the completion of the inspection, not from the date of the fatality.

**Mr. Martel:** Can the minister tell me what he means by all that gobbledegook? We read the material he provided for us and it said it took 13 weeks to complete an investigation. The fatality in Oshawa occurred in November 1985 and the one in Red Lake occurred in January, which was 18 weeks ago. Just how long does it take to complete an investigation to determine whether the ministry will proceed with a prosecution?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I appreciate that my friend has the policy, and I urge him to go back and have another look at it. He will appreciate that one of the reasons we have not put a time limit on the investigation is that we cannot. In some cases, an investigation may take only a day; in other cases, it might take a week, a month or longer. I assure the member it is not tied to an inquest, although on occasion it may be necessary to wait for an inquest result. I am told that happens only on rare occasions.

In the sense of a clock starting to tick, it begins to tick after the completion of the investigation. There are then rules to be followed. I have instructed my officials to keep me advised to make sure these matters are being expedited. When anything goes beyond the time limits the member spoke about the other day, I am advised not only when we have gone beyond but also why.

#### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Brandt:** I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. On a number

of occasions, the minister has indicated that his government will protect the interests of Ontario in any free trade talks that take place between Canada and the United States. The minister has gone so far as to say that "if it requires daily or even hourly contact with what is going on in the negotiating room," he intends to do that. Since the minister made that comment and the trade talks started yesterday, will he give us an hourly update on what has occurred?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** As the honourable member stated, we will keep a very close watch on these talks. People from my ministry and a representative of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) are in daily contact with the people who are conducting these trade talks in Ottawa.

**Mr. Brandt:** I can understand why the minister has some difficulty responding to my question. The Premier has gone on record indicating that he will fight for Ontario's interests, but he has also admitted that Ontario, as well as all other provinces, will be represented by Alberta's Premier Getty in talks with the federal government, not by himself, the minister or a civil servant. The Premier went on to say that he has no plans even to send an Ontario representative to the trade talks. Since no one is going to be there representing Ontario, who is going to speak up for this province when those very important trade talks get under way?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** I do not know whether the member is aware that Premier Getty was appointed as the spokesman for all the Premiers across Canada. He is the one who will be speaking to the Prime Minister and the other officials concerning the role of the provinces in those discussions. As I mentioned previously, we have people from my ministry and from the Premier's office who are keeping a day-to-day watch on those talks and reporting back to us.

3:10 p.m.

#### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Mrs. Grier:** I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The federal government has set a safe level of zero for dioxin in food, and yet the minister has told this House that his ministry is presuming to set acceptable levels for this unacceptable substance. Does the minister believe there is any safe threshold for dioxin in food?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The honourable member is correct in what she has said. What they are looking at is the total intake that comes from all sources; for instance, breathing, drinking water,



fish—which is an exemption under food—and food. If the member remembers, Dr. Davies said we could not set one standard exclusive of others, because a human being has a total intake.

The member will agree, and I do not think anyone in the House would dissent, that all of us would like to see no dioxin. Dioxin is just the one genie that is out of the bottle now as a result of this. There are a lot of other contaminants of which I know the member is aware. That is why all of us are in agreement that we should be getting at the sources to get them out of there.

I do not want to put it outside Ontario alone, but I think it is a worldwide problem. If we look around the world, we would probably have to exclude most foods from our diets if we were to exclude the contaminants that are there, which is most unfortunate. I do not think any of us intend to do that; so what we are going to do, and what is important, is to get rid of the sources. We are in the process of doing it now, and I think this involves more than our jurisdiction.

**Mrs. Grier:** The Royal Society of Canada and many others have said there are no safe levels for any chemicals that act as initiators of carcinogens. Dioxin is a carcinogen. Is the minister developing standards that are safe or standards that reflect what he finds?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** In their eventual establishment of standards, the federal and provincial authorities in this country want to reflect those that would be safe rather than those that would be based on what one happens to find and then making a judgement of that as being too high or too low. That would be the most appropriate route to follow.

At the conference in Mackinac, Michigan, many people spoke to this issue. It is essential to get a consensus, not only on a Canadian basis but also an international basis, and one that deals with what the best health authorities, toxicologists and scientists have to say on establishing these levels.

Putting all that aside, I think they recognize and agree with Ontario's approach. Our delegation was certainly looked upon favourably there. We should be going after the sources and removing those so we do not have the contaminants in our food and drinking water.

#### PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

**Mr. Baetz:** My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Is he aware that a 27-year-old Ottawa man who is paralysed and confined to a wheelchair has been placed in an apartment that simply cannot accommodate a

wheelchair? Consequently, Bernard Marleau has been unable to use his kitchen or his bathroom for the past five months.

Will the minister please explain why this obviously improper placement occurred in the first place? When will this man be moved to an apartment that can accommodate somebody who is totally confined to a wheelchair?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** The member will know that we have an independent living program for people who are physically handicapped, providing not only living spaces that are appropriate for their needs but also attendant care. I cannot respond specifically to the issue the member has raised about why the man is in that situation. I can only presume he is on the waiting list for something more appropriate. I will most certainly look into it and get a more precise answer.

**Mr. Baetz:** It is clear that for the past five months, Bernard Marleau has not received even the basic essential services to which he is entitled by law, as the minister knows.

Will the minister also explain why it apparently took an article in the Ottawa Citizen before his ministry was sufficiently motivated even to begin to meet this client's basic human needs and rights?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** It is not the usual practice for my ministry to have to respond to a newspaper article. The services that are provided to physically and developmentally handicapped people across this province are very extensive. The member will remember in the most recent budget there was an allocation of \$10 million specifically and strictly for services to the physically handicapped and an additional \$5 million to my colleague the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) to provide housing specifically for the physically handicapped.

There has been very recent movement on the part of this government to provide for those kinds of services. There is no doubt that the total number of services available for all the people who need them has not yet reached the need, but we will do so.

I repeat, I will get back to the member on the specific case he brought to my attention.

#### INSURANCE RATES

**Mr. Swart:** The Minister of Financial Institutions will recall that in his report, Dr. Slater commended the efficiency of the public auto insurance plans in the western provinces and said they return a larger share of the premium dollar in claims payouts to motor vehicle owners. I wonder whether the minister is amazed, as we



are, that Dr. Slater did not quantify that savings for the people of Ontario.

Does the minister not think that he and the public ought to know the detailed amount of the savings of the public alternative before he issues the crutches to prop up the present broken-down system?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The member will know that Dr. Slater made a report. In it he canvassed all the insurance programs in Canada. He commented on them, and the member is right: He commented that in some of them there are some efficiencies. But he also asked—I do not recall if it is in the report, but he said to me personally—“At what cost?”

I have said this to the member before: Dr. Slater had all this information, and no one has ever questioned Dr. Slater’s capabilities, yet after all his canvassing he made a recommendation, and he made it very strongly, that this government should not get into the automobile insurance business.

**Mr. Swart:** Research based on the figures of the superintendent of insurance for 1983, which are the most recent available, show that in that year, with the greater efficiency of a public system alone, Ontario motor vehicle owners would have saved \$311 million by the application of the Manitoba plan and \$412 million by the application of the British Columbia plan to this province.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Mr. Swart:** So that there can be no public doubt about the benefits of public plans—and perhaps about the minister’s bias against them—will he authorize Woods Gordon or some similar independent firm to prepare a comparative update study similar to the one done in 1977, which proved so conclusively the benefits of a public plan? Will he do that before he rules out a public plan for Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The member will also know that in the recommendations Dr. Slater made, he bemoaned the fact there was not a lot of statistical information available. One of his recommendations was that we should get some material so we can make our decisions based on good data. That is one of the recommendations that he has made and that we will act on.

#### WASTE DISPOSAL

**Mr. McCague:** Now that the Ministry of the Environment has decided to extend the waste disposal site in Tecumseh township, contrary to previous understandings, why does the minister

not agree to assume any risk with well-water contamination and put the fears of the citizens to rest?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** That is a good question. It sounds sensible. I will be pleased to evaluate that option. The member, as the people in his area should know, has brought this matter to my attention previously by way of correspondence, and I am giving full consideration to the option he mentions. I am pleased to see him ask that question in the House.

**3:20 p.m.**

#### RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

**Mr. Allen:** I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. In my riding, the new owner of the Longwood Road Apartments, with the improbable corporate name of Annie Laurie, has given notice to the tenants of this building that he wishes to have vacant possession to convert the apartment into a lodging house. He will shortly place those tenants in the street in a very difficult tenant situation we are all familiar with.

Will the minister tell us whether he approves of that kind of conversion taking place in the municipalities of Ontario and, if not, what he as minister can do to help tenants such as the Longwood Road tenants in their predicament?

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaître:** I remind the honourable member that at present the eviction notice received by these tenants is not applicable, for the simple reason that the owner or owners of the building have not applied directly to the municipality in which this eviction is taking place.

As for the second part of the question, this government and my ministry are committed to protecting the rental stock of this province, and we will continue to do so. To prove this, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) introduced a bill which said very simply that all severances and conversions will now come directly to my office.

**Mr. Allen:** Inasmuch as this group of tenants is relying a good deal on at least the moral force of Bill 11, will the minister perhaps presume to act in this situation as though Bill 11 were now in place and send the appropriate message to the municipal council, whose licensing committee is now looking at the application? Will he act immediately with the Minister of Housing to plug that lodging house conversion loophole, which still sits out there and entices landlords to evade the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act?



**Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre:** I will repeat the commitment of this government. It is our intention to protect rental housing, and we will do so. If amendments are needed, they will be brought forward.

In the meantime, to go back to the honourable gentleman's question, the application made to the municipality will have to come to me in order that a decision can be made. However, at present there is no application before me.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Turner:** I have a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. The minister is undoubtedly aware that Friedrich Industries of Peterborough is a group of nine highly advanced technological industries that is now in receivership and facing auction within 10 days. What steps will the minister take today to prevent more than 200 skilled workers in these plants from being laid off as a sacrifice to government indifference?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** The member is aware that I met with Mr. Friedrich approximately a week and a half ago. We had a good meeting, and I told him at that point just what we could do in the way of possible Ontario Development Corp. assistance to him. He asked for a very large sum of money to help him get straightened around. Of course, it would not be within the prerogative of ODC to give him that much money, but I did tell him we were prepared to help him if we could.

**Mr. Turner:** I too have met with Mr. Friedrich. I have met with the workers as well. I am sure the minister is aware that the layoffs affect the riding of his colleague the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) as well as my riding. While the minister is off globetrotting and making speeches, Ontario high-tech industries, which often require upfront capital, are dying on the vine. Will the minister act immediately to ensure that Friedrich Industries will not become a garage sale of Ontario high technology?

**Hon. Mr. O'Neil:** Sure, I do a little travelling, and I do a little speaking. I spent Friday a week ago in the riding of Peterborough. The member will be aware that a new industry was announced there on Tuesday of this week which created close to 300 jobs. We have also made recent announcements of two new factories in the city of Lindsay, and they will create hundreds of jobs.

I can only try to assure the member, because I know he asked the question in earnest, that within the limits of ODC we will do anything we possibly can. I believe Mr. Friedrich must get other funding from other places.

#### TENDERING PRACTICES

**Mr. Philip:** I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Can the minister confirm the validity of the information I provided to him only two days ago, that Ontario Housing Corp. signed a sweetheart contract without tender to a company known as Community Guardian for security services amounting to more than \$24 million? OHC did no evaluative studies on the quality of the previous sweetheart contract, which was signed with the same company without any kind of tendering. The contract in that case was for more than \$4 million.

What is the minister going to do to stop this kind of squandering of the taxpayers' money and to ensure that the tenants of Ontario Housing get adequate security without additional cost to the taxpayers?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** It is my understanding that the contract was tendered. If that is not so, I will investigate and come back to the member on this matter.

**Mr. Philip:** I told the minister two days ago it was not tendered.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

#### PETITIONS

##### PHYSIOTHERAPY

**Mr. Andrewes:** I have a petition, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned that the government of Ontario discriminates in its Ontario health insurance plan fee schedules. OHIP pays 21 per cent more to physicians for physiotherapy treatment than it pays to physiotherapists. Most unsettling is the fact that OHIP's schedule of benefits makes it possible for an unqualified assistant in a physician's office to treat a patient.

"This is a very unfair and unjust situation and should be corrected by your government immediately."

##### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Sheppard:** I have a petition signed by more than 100 people from the great riding of Northumberland.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:



"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. There are quite a number of private conversations taking place. They may be necessary, but they are unnecessarily noisy.

**Mr. McCague:** I have a petition from 142 people in Dufferin-Simcoe. It reads the same as the one just read by the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard).

3:30 p.m.

### ELECTORAL DISTRICTS REDISTRIBUTION

**Mr. Jackson:** I brought with me today a petition signed by 3,500 residents of the great riding of Burlington South specifically addressed to the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon).

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Do they not want their roads paved?

**Mr. Jackson:** It is not their roads. What they have said is:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario, as follows:

"We strongly oppose the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission's proposed boundary change to have the southeast portion of the present electoral district of Burlington South, that area between Burloak Drive and Appleby Line and south of New Street to Lake Ontario, added to the proposed electoral district of Oakville South.

"We, therefore, respectfully petition for the inclusion of the designated southeast portion of Burlington as described above in a Burlington-based electoral district."

I have a second petition signed unanimously by the councillors of the city of Burlington strongly opposing the Electoral Boundaries Commission's recommendation to remove the Elizabeth Gardens community of southeast Burlington from its traditional Burlington South electoral district and to add it to the proposed electoral district of Oakville South. It also says the city of Burlington through its MPPs should petition the Legislative Assembly to keep Elizabeth Gardens in a Burlington-based electoral district.

I have a third, even shorter, petition, signed by every councillor of the regional municipality of

Halton, objecting to the proposed amendments and endorsing the resolution of the council of the city of Burlington.

**Mr. Speaker:** I missed whether they were addressed to the Lieutenant Governor.

**Mr. Jackson:** All three.

### NATUROPATHY

**Mrs. Grier:** I have a petition signed by 50 residents of this province petitioning this Legislature to guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Harris:** I have a petition signed by four concerned citizens of this province. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, express our grave concern over the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) for his lack of concern for the laid-off workers of northern Ontario."

**Mr. Speaker:** Is that signed by the member as well?

**Mr. Harris:** No.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILL

#### PARALEGAL AGENTS ACT

Mr. O'Connor moved first reading of Bill 42, An Act to regulate the Activities of Paralegal Agents.

Motion agreed to.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. J. M. Johnson:** I am very pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this budget debate. I urge the government to look at all the suggestions my colleagues and I in opposition are proposing and seriously consider implementing at least some of them.

Ontario's present economic strength is largely the result of the economic leadership of and responsible financial management by Progressive Conservative governments. Years of expenditure control in efficiently delivered programs have paid off. Ontario's economic strength is also the result of the decrease in energy prices. In



1986, Ontario's crude oil bill will be about \$2.5 billion less than it was last year. These factors have greatly contributed to the \$2.26-billion revenue windfall with which the government finds itself.

Instead of spending at almost twice the rate of inflation, the government should be taking advantage of the opportunity presented by current economic conditions. It should be reducing the deficit and eliminating the needless spending to service the debt. In doing so, more funds would be available in the future to create and support social programs. Also, further funds would be available for these social programs if the government would allocate the \$300 million of tax revenue which remains unaccounted for in this budget.

With the tax revenue, the government has many opportunities to improve and implement programs for the benefit of the people of this province. These opportunities were missed in the throne speech and now they are being missed in the budget.

I would like to make a few suggestions to the government on how it can allocate this revenue.

A major theme of the budget and of the throne speech was the future industrial development of this province. I wholeheartedly support this commitment, as it is one the former Progressive Conservative government put forth through its Board of Industrial Leadership and Development and Enterprise Ontario programs and through its corporate tax exemptions for qualified small business.

I was saddened to see that the budget and the speech from the throne offered little to assist the many municipalities of rural Ontario where there is a very serious lack of industrial and commercial development. For that reason, I would like to remind the House of a resolution on the subject of an industrial strategy for rural municipalities which I tabled and which we debated in this House in November, a resolution that received the unanimous support of all members of this Legislature. Mr. Speaker, I believe you had an opportunity to speak in support of that resolution.

There are very serious limitations placed on our smaller rural municipalities in their ability to stimulate industrial growth. The government of Ontario should develop and implement an industrial strategy that would provide these municipalities with the much-needed expertise and financial resources necessary to enhance their position in this competitive field. This would result in three things: (1) give added strength to rural communities trying to attract the

kind of industry they feel is appropriate for their needs, (2) enable newly created wealth to be better distributed throughout the province and (3) have the overall effect of strengthening Ontario's economy.

The spreading of growth throughout Ontario will provide great incentives for the creation of small business. Over the last five years, small businesses have created more than 90 per cent of the net new jobs in our economy and currently provide more than 50 per cent of private sector employment in our province. This industrial strategy could provide both economic and social benefits to Ontario.

As an example to support my case for an industrial strategy for rural Ontario, I might use the farmers-in-transition program the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) announced several months ago. FIT assists farmers to leave agriculture. It suggests that farmers should receive assistance, a relocation grant, on-the-job training, living allowance during institutional education, cash transition grants and wage subsidy. It supports farmers when they have to leave their land because they cannot obtain a satisfactory living on the agricultural land that they farm.

**3:40 p.m.**

If industry were located in small rural communities, these people might be able to stay on their land. In a larger family, a couple of the members of the family could work in industry to help supplement the farm income and allow the farm to stay in existence. Even if they could not afford to farm the land at present, they could maybe maintain their home, rent the farm land and work in industry for a period of four, five or six years, whatever is necessary, until the agricultural economy turns around and they are able to come back to the farm and start their operations again.

If they relocate, it will likely mean they will relocate in one of the larger communities such as Toronto. Once they move to Toronto or to another city, they will not return to the farms and they will be lost to agriculture for ever. If industry were in these rural communities, they would have that option. We should encourage industrial growth in rural Ontario to help preserve our farmers and farm land.

The agricultural sector is a vital one and is one of the most important industries in my riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel. It should be of great concern to the government as well, but the government has abandoned the farmers and there is no financial reform to speak of in the budget.



I do applaud the government for increasing the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food by 13.3 per cent and for continuing financial assistance for the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, the farm operating credit assistance program and the beginning farmer assistance program. These are three good programs.

I feel, however, the government should have committed more funds to agriculture, because the farming community is encountering extremely serious economic problems this year. Farmers are not only faced with increased production costs, but also must contend with low commodity prices and depressed farm incomes. Unfortunately, farmers cannot resort to strike action to resolve their economic problems.

Regardless of the increase in the budget, since this government took over, our farmers have fallen behind in the face of competition from the farmers of other provinces and American farmers, whose governments are extremely committed to agriculture. Since July 1985, Alberta has introduced more than \$800 million in new agricultural programs and a \$2-billion interest subsidization program. Saskatchewan has introduced a \$1.2-billion interest subsidization program for operating loans for spring seeding, plus a lucrative hog program, giving each hog farmer, on average, \$11,000 per year.

The United States farm bill subsidies will be almost \$100 billion. The provisions of this bill are designed to protect US farm incomes by means of so-called deficiency payments. Since American farmers are guaranteed a good price from Washington, they will sell more grain on the world market, which will cause a decline in world grain price. Canada will inevitably suffer.

It has been forecast that wide-ranging changes in US agricultural policy will have a serious impact on Canadian farm incomes over the next few years. The US farm bill will lower the income of Canadian farmers by 10 per cent, which will cause extreme financial stress for Canadian farmers already suffering in a very serious year. Because Ontario produces 75 per cent of the corn grown in Canada, this bill will have a devastating effect on our farmers.

The potential impact of the bill must be minimized and the Minister of Agriculture and Food has the responsibility of defending our Ontario farmers during this agricultural war between the American and European markets.

I am glad to see the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) are following up on a process to

preserve our prime agricultural land. That process was initiated by the previous Progressive Conservative government. This Liberal government, through its introduction of the new food land preservation policy, is following suit. However, I am afraid the Minister of Agriculture and Food has taken his eagerness a step too far to the detriment of farmers and local municipalities.

There are many areas of this policy that are in need of further clarification. There are also two main areas of the food land preservation policy that are creating much anxiety in my riding and causing me a lot of concern. They are severances and the 10-year time limit in planning.

The government's callousness towards farmers is evident in its restriction on severances for retiring farmers. The government must not override the property rights of farmers in its attempt to preserve prime farm land. This objective can be achieved without unduly encroaching upon the property rights of family farmers. Most rural Ontarians feel the present land severance committees are operating quite satisfactorily, but are concerned that should the new food land preservation policy be implemented, their local rights will be taken over by bureaucrats at Queen's Park, bureaucrats who have no knowledge of local issues and concerns.

Furthermore, I believe the 10-year time limit set for the planning of future urban expansion should be reconsidered. This policy also has the effect of severely restricting the autonomy of local councils. Many of my municipal councils have expressed concern over the 10-year time limit as it does not allow sufficient time for planning future growth or accommodating changes in the designation of their official plans. These municipalities also want to attract industry, but industrial growth cannot be planned in a 10-year time frame because it is an ongoing process.

Both the severance restrictions and the time limit are indicative of the centralization of power at Queen's Park under the new Liberal government, headed primarily by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon). Municipalities are worrying that, at this rate, decisions could be made at Queen's Park that would force them into stagnation and situations of no growth. I fully support my local municipal councils in their attempts to retain their local autonomy.

A matter which I would like to deal with is that of waste disposal and resource recovery. This issue has been brought to my attention in my riding, and is a matter about which all members should be aware and sensitive. Garbage is worth



its weight in energy. It can heat our buildings. It can fuel our giant electric generators. It can operate heavy industrial machinery. However, we are not using this valuable resource because we are still too reluctant to invest in the development and building of the equipment needed to recycle waste generated by households, farms and industry.

A new trend in municipal waste disposal, energy-from-waste plants, is under consideration by many Canadian private firms and municipalities. One such plant is currently under construction at Victoria Hospital in London, Ontario. The Victoria Hospital energy-from-waste facility will supply heat and electricity to the hospital complex through the burning of garbage from the London area.

The plant will bring in more money than it is costing within three to five years of startup. With the installation of this facility it is estimated the hospital will save approximately \$1 million per year through tipping fees and the elimination of purchasing energy for heating and electricity. The city of London also benefits in that it saves on the cost of hauling garbage to distant sites.

This might be extremely important to you, Mr. Speaker, and for your county of Oxford, as it has experienced difficulty obtaining a sanitary landfill site. The highest saving to the city of London comes from the reduction of landfill site requirements. Landfill sites are a thing of the past. They are glorified dumps that cause fear of contamination and loss of property values for the nearby residents. Technology has now developed, so that we no longer have to rely on so-called sanitary landfill sites.

**3:50 p.m.**

In theory, incinerators could reduce the demand for garbage dumps by 90 per cent. In my riding, both the county of Wellington and the town of Caledon are seriously looking at energy-from-waste facilities. For the past several years, Caledon has been trying to persuade the provincial and federal governments to assist in the establishment of these facilities, as they would solve the waste disposal problems being encountered.

I might just mention that the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) has agreed to meet with the people of Caledon and Wellington to see whether he can help solve the problem; so I give that minister credit. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) has not been so supportive.

In Wellington county, the existing waste management system cannot serve the county's needs for very many more years. The waste

management plan for the county of Wellington and the city of Guelph concluded that the preferred option of waste control for these areas in the next 25 years is an energy-from-waste facility to be located at the University of Guelph. About 200 tons of city and county garbage could be incinerated at the plant each day to produce steam that could be used for heating in the winter and electricity for air-conditioning in the summer.

Because of the instability of the energy sector, this is an economically viable solution. Canadians throw away 16 million tons of garbage annually. One ton of garbage can produce an amount of energy equivalent to that of one barrel of oil. This means that Canada is foregoing the opportunity to produce an amount of energy equivalent to that provided by 16 million barrels of oil annually.

There are no revenues from burying garbage. An energy-from-waste plant is the best way to go. It has been tested and proved in communities in Europe, Japan and the United States, where it has become a system of choice. Energy recovery will go a long way to contributing to the solution of municipal waste disposal problems and at the same time help to conserve nonrenewable resources. The provincial government will have to play a more effective leadership role if Ontario is ever going to profit from this energy source.

Finally, the government should subsidize capital costs of projects that might not be financially attractive to private industry or local governments, similar to the way the former Progressive Conservative government pledged \$6.9 million towards an energy-from-waste facility at Victoria Hospital in London.

This suggestion is for the Treasurer, who has now disappeared. I would like to suggest to him that part of the government's \$1-billion technology fund, if allocated to refining energy-from-waste technology and promoting such facilities throughout the province, could be used very handily in this program. By further developing these technologies, Ontario could become a world leader in this area. Therefore, the government should develop a market strategy for these environmental technologies, as there is a secure supply of waste and there is a long-term demand for the recovered energy. Agricultural land is no longer available for waste disposal in many parts of Ontario. This is the kind of initiative that could demonstrate how industry and government can work together effectively.

I regret the budget did not adequately address the topics I have raised, nor did it address a few



others I would like to touch upon briefly in conclusion. While the \$850-million allocation to capital funding for hospitals sounds commendable, when spread out over several years it amounts, at the most, to \$150 million a year, which is really not much more than the previous government allocated in past years. It also does not address the very pressing need for operating grants for hospitals, which will be held to four per cent.

In my opinion, the budget also neglects the need for more nursing home beds to alleviate the overcrowding in hospitals. It just does not make economic sense to me that we can spend \$40 for a nursing home bed and yet it costs \$400 to \$500 for a hospital bed to keep the same people. I am not suggesting that if there is a medical problem they should not be in the hospital; but many of our seniors are kept in hospitals because there is no space available in nursing home beds. At 10 times the cost, it is not sensible.

Furthermore, with savings of \$2.5 billion in Ontario's crude oil bill in 1986, I feel the Treasurer and the government could have demonstrated some compassion for the consumer by substantially reducing the gas tax. On budget day, I tabled a petition in the House on behalf of many of my constituents requesting the government to consider reducing the very high gas taxes in existence at this time.

Further to the gas tax, on Thursday, May 15, my colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) debated a resolution calling on the government and the Treasurer to remove the tax of 8.3 cents per litre on gasoline and 9.9 cents per litre on diesel fuel on all farm-licensed, commercial vehicles. This Legislature voted 50 to 10 in favour of my colleague's resolution. One of the 10 to vote against the motion to help farmers was the Treasurer himself. Not only did he vote to make agriculture pay the full cost of road tax, but he also reinstated the seven per cent tax on heavy trucks. All farm produce goes to market by truck. Once more, farmers have been forgotten by this government.

In the budget, which was dressed up in a pretty red cover, tourism was briefly mentioned. A few dollars were allocated to a few programs of an advertising nature. For several years, I have advocated a farm vacation program. There is no mention of this program. In my opinion, as I mentioned to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, the program is lost between two ministries. The Minister of Agriculture and Food is supposed to look after the program; yet, to my

mind, it belongs in the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. The Minister of Agriculture and Food has enough problems in his field without becoming involved in a tourism project.

I am disappointed that the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) has not seen fit to request the transfer of this program to his ministry. For the past several years, the minister has been one of the most supportive members in this House for a farm vacation program. I hope the government will consider transferring it to its rightful place and get on with what could be an extremely important tourist attraction for this province.

It is very sad to think that Prince Edward Island, the population of which is one fiftieth that of Ontario, has more farm vacation homes than does this province. I hope the minister will give consideration to this. I have offered my services to travel to Prince Edward Island and other areas to investigate the feasibility of these programs. I hope the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) will convey this information to the two ministers.

On a personal note, I want to express my disappointment with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. I say ministry because I am not sure the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) is knowledgeable about all the events that unfold in his ministry. Apparently, the Treasurer has not allocated MTC enough money in this last budget and this ministry has started to slash services to our citizens.

#### 4 p.m.

The ministry has refused to continue to operate a motor vehicle licence issuing office in one of my communities, the village of Erin in Wellington county. MTC claims this office is underutilized and not busy enough. The agent did not make enough money. However, it provided a service for thousands of my constituents, many of them seniors and many of them commuters who have difficulty with the nine-to-five hours of most of the adjacent licence offices.

The office in Erin is needed, and the business community has circulated petitions requesting the ministry to reopen this motor vehicle licence issuing office in Erin. I fully support their requests and intend to table their petitions in this Legislature this coming week. I understand there are a couple of thousand signatures showing support for the office if it is reopened.

I hope the Liberal government will continue to provide these much-needed services to rural Ontario, as the former Progressive Conservative



government had done for so many years. Everyone does not live in large urban centres. We in rural Ontario surely can expect equal services, perhaps no more, but certainly no less.

In conclusion, I would like to describe the Treasurer's budget as a painless, middle-of-the-road document. The Treasurer gave the consumers a tax break and a mortgaged future.

**Ms. Gigantes:** I welcome this opportunity to use a few minutes of the time of the House to lay out some of my concerns as they arise when I read the budget. They are concerns that relate very distinctly to the last year of government in Ontario. We have had a year that gave us legislative promise, a mini-budget last fall, or a budget statement as the Treasurer called it, a throne speech for the new spring session and now a new budget for fiscal 1986-87.

I raise concerns at this stage, not because I am unfamiliar with the due process that one might suffer through as an elected member. I am not a starry-eyed novice, expecting a rush of new ideas to sweep the world when government changes hands. I was not born yesterday and I was not sent to voluntary confinement at this place only recently.

I do not feel disillusioned with our progress over the last year because, after all, if I had ever felt the Liberal Party was a vehicle for real reform, I could have chosen to become a Liberal. I never did, never have and never will. Still and all, if one measures this government by what the Liberals claim as their Liberal standards, this government is showing the signs of failure.

It is an interesting kind of failure; at least, I find it interesting because I have never watched a Liberal government fail close up, even though Ottawa is home. Like others in Ottawa, I have seen Liberal failures before, but never so intimately. It is in the nature of my work and my interest to observe only Conservative failure at close range until this past year. The most interesting part of what we have seen in the last year is that Liberal failures look very much the same as Conservative failures the closer one gets to see them.

I want to speak briefly about three areas of faded, faltering and failing Liberal promise: housing policy, fairness for women and children, and social policy as it relates to incomes.

First, let me mention two very unabstract program areas which this Liberal government has very specifically and deliberately failed to address. Both are programs for which the policy base was created before I was first elected to this Legislature back in 1975. The ideas for the

policies go back even further in time. They were ideas, like so many of the ones that we are struggling with still in this Legislature, that were generated first in the 1960s. They became part of political and bureaucratic lingo in the early 1970s, and in many other jurisdictions they found reality in the 1970s.

Like so many of the notions that still seem to require enormous study and debate here in Ontario, they are old hat in the more progressive political jurisdictions. I am talking here about what we call our assistive devices program and our integrated homemaker and attendant care programs. They are both in disgusting shape. In Ontario, because of the state they are in, they barely qualify to be called programs. There is simply no excuse for the shape they are in.

It is kind of boring these days to hark back to Conservative promises in this province, but on some items there is just no avoiding it. Members do not need to be reminded of the excruciating and inexcusable delay which the Conservative government of Mr. Davis used in first implementing a peewee assistive devices program and how that government then announced yearly reviews promising to deliver a real, major league assistive devices program. That was a cruel process. Everyone with an ounce or a gram of common sense knows that most people who use assistive devices are not under the age of 18 and not under the age of 21. Most people who have to use assistive devices are older people, and a great many of them need assistive devices because they have suffered work-related injuries or diseases that have crippled their ability to earn income.

In Ontario, in May 1985, we were still making those people pay for their own assistive devices. One year later, under this new Liberal government, we are still making them pay for their own assistive devices. There is a new review going on with a new promise to develop a comprehensive program. I will not quote the fiery comments of the Liberals in former days, arguing for a real assistive devices program in the bad old days before May 2, 1985. It would be boring to hear those quotes again and it would be distressing.

I want to say a word on the integrated homemaker program and attendant care services, the services that would help elderly and handicapped people to live independent lives outside institutions in Ontario. The pattern we have seen in the assistive devices program is repeated in the so-called integrated homemaker program. It is so similar it hardly bears description. Just like the pilot program of assistive devices assistance for



an age-limited group of Ontario citizens, we now have a pilot program of integrated homemaker services for a geographically limited group of Ontario citizens.

After years of Conservative promises and Liberal fiery demands, we now have what is called an integrated homemaker service in six communities of this province. In spite of the fact that now even the Conservative Party is giving fiery speeches about the inequity, stupidity and insincerity of the Ontario government's refusal to put a real assistive devices program and a real integrated homemaker program in place once and for all, not one cent was set aside for either of these programs in last week's budget; as Kate Smith used to say, "Not one lousy dime." I will not give full throat to my irritation because I know my sentiments have been registered.

I now turn to three major areas I want to mention. The first is housing policy. In the full year the Liberals have had to develop and implement a firm housing policy, they have not really understood either the urgency of the housing problem or what they have to do to get a housing policy in place that will effectively tackle that problem.

Here is the essence of the problem. Since the time back in 1978 when the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) became Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs right up to May 2, 1985, when the Liberals were part of the transformation of the political history of this province, the policy of the Ontario government was not to have a housing policy. For close to seven years, the attitude of the Conservatives was to avert their eyes while untrammelled market forces marauded the housing market, tramping all over a rent review system which did not even have the minimal protection that a rent registry would have provided.

When one tenant household moved and new tenants signed a lease, the new tenants were not informed about the previous rent and did not know if, as has been the normal pattern, the new rent they were being charged was illegal. There has been no rent registry to inform them, and the result is a rent review system which is no longer a real system. It merely floats on top of the waves of a tide of illegal rents.

**4:10 p.m.**

For seven years, from 1978 to 1985, affordable rental units were being removed from the rental market by landlords who found an amazing array of ways to evade rent review. Tenant households in affordable rental units were subjected to what I call economic eviction. They

have had their apartments demolished, renovated to higher rent levels, converted to offices, converted to apartment hotels and converted to high-priced rooms. They have had their row housing units severed and sold from under them.

They have been swept out of homes they could afford by a tide of economic evictions, and in case after case they have been forced to move right out of the neighbourhoods that had been theirs and where they and their families had had access to schools, recreation facilities, good bus service and all the physical and service infrastructure that municipalities have had to provide. In case after case, they have had to move right out of urban centres and far out to the outer reaches of suburbia to find accommodations. They have had to move to areas where school services are not sufficient for the hundreds of refugee families—and they are economic refugees—where there are not recreation facilities or shopping facilities nearby and where public transit service is very limited.

What does this mean for our cities? It means, first of all, the costly schools, recreation facilities and public transit services we have built into our urban core areas are now falling into disuse, as childless upper-income households, young or old, have little need for the infrastructure we have built up so carefully in downtown areas. It also means the public will now be asked to pay for the installation of new services in the outer reaches of suburbia. There is a public financial cost for all this private pillage and profit in the rental housing market. We are allowing the public purse to be raided when we allow private profit rampage in the rental housing market.

The other price we pay is a social cost. We are allowing our downtown areas to become enclaves of the rich. The buildings that have traditionally been the homes of low- and middle-income households are now being demolished to provide upper-income homes or are being converted to offices, apartment hotels or chichi, expensive apartments. Only the well-off will be able to live in downtowns around Ontario. The social implications of that are profound, they are unhappy and they will be very expensive socially if we allow them to continue.

My point is that the Liberals understand the need for one part of the equation of good housing policy, and that is the production side. Ottawa-Carleton, for example, will be getting up to 743 nonprofit units through the federal-provincial program announced a few weeks back. That is great; it will help ease the housing crisis in Ottawa; but it will not make up for the thousands



of affordable rental units that have been haemorrhaging from the private rental market in the last few years. We are losing hundreds of affordable rental units each year in the Ottawa market, and a year after the Liberals said they would stop the haemorrhage, we are still losing them.

We do not have legislation in place that will stop the erosion of the affordable rental stock, and the legislation that has been tabled is not going to do the job. Not only have the Liberals failed to implement an effective housing policy, they have failed to develop an effective housing policy. Bill 78 is not good enough; Bill 11 is not good enough; and the policy urgings of the Minister of Municipal Affairs to municipalities are not good enough. The sum is even less than the parts, because the Liberals have not developed a policy that covers the whole housing problem.

My other two concerns are closely linked to the urgent question of affordable housing. The largest group of poor people in this province are poor women and their poor children, and only one in five of the households composed of poor women with children in Ontario can find assisted housing. That is 20 per cent of those households that get assisted housing. The rest, 80 per cent of poor households led by women with children, either crowd themselves and their children into the homes of friends or relatives, or they struggle out to battle for housing in a private market that has a dwindling number of affordable rental units.

It is crazy and it is almost criminal. What is going to happen to the thousands of children if their mothers break down? It is happening. What will happen to this province as those thousands of children drop out of school because they have been too hungry, tired and sick and because they have been transferred from school to school and from neighbourhood to neighbourhood? Why are we allowing this to happen?

Even when women are able to find paid work they cannot provide housing, food, clothing and a sense of security for their children. There are two million women doing paid work in Ontario. Forty per cent of them are living without a spouse and 25 per cent have only part-time work. A large proportion of working women are in the category we call the working poor. They get paid the minimum wage of \$4.50 an hour or just above the minimum wage. They and their families live below what we call the poverty line. We use those two expressions, "the poverty line" and "the working poor," to describe the fact that in 1986, in Ontario, 286,000 families did not have

enough money to pay for housing, food and general expenses.

The budget did not help the single mother with two kids who earns just enough to meet the poverty line. She pays \$1,200 in taxes to the federal government, about which I will not comment. She pays \$625 in taxes to the Ontario government. That is personal income tax. She pays more than \$700 in Ontario health insurance plan premiums for herself and her children.

One has to ask what is going on here. Why are we doing this? Why are we asking people who cannot house, feed and provide a stable economic framework for their children to pay more than \$1,300 of their meagre family incomes to the general revenues in Ontario? The total amount they pay means only \$262 million to the provincial budget, where the Treasurer himself confessed he had lots of room for manoeuvre. That is \$262 million out of a budget of \$30 billion. That \$262 million means financial despair to tens of thousands of families in this province.

The Treasurer had the money to increase family benefits assistance payments to the poverty line in this budget. He had the money to lift income taxes and OHIP premiums off the financial burden carried by the working poor. He did not do it. It is a rotten shame and a grave social mistake to continue the unthinking and unfeeling patterns of tax policies that let the rich get richer while more and more people in this province struggle in poverty, while children in this province learn hunger, defeat and despair.

The Liberals still talk about reform, but there are not the fiery speeches we used to hear from the Liberals in the past. There are the old tired phrases we heard from the previous government, which are used to camouflage the harsh reality of fiscal policy. From time to time, the Liberals have tried to suggest that New Democratic Party economic policy is a simple-minded slogan that says, "Make the rich pay." The members have heard the full outline of our economic proposals for this budget; so they know that fairness in tax policy is a strong part of NDP economic policy, a major part of our policy but not all of our policy.

As we have seen in the three provinces that have benefited from time to time from NDP economic policy, NDP policy is based on a very mature and capable grasp of how a healthy economy can be nurtured, developed and shared. We are proud to speak for real reform. The Liberals, like the Conservatives who proceeded them, should be ashamed to speak for reform and act for the economic status quo. We need to start



counting people in when we address economic issues in Ontario, and the time to start is now.

**4:20 p.m.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any questions or comments?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I would like to make a brief comment. I have a high regard for the honourable member's opinions. It is not often that she is so unfair in her approach to something as important as the budget. Perhaps I am a little too sensitive to the charge she would levy that the Treasurer and government would talk one way about improving the lot of the less fortunate in the province and then act in another.

The member knows we have added a three per cent surtax to incomes over \$50,000, at the same time as strengthening the Ontario tax reduction program for the second time. She might say, and properly so, that the tax reduction program is still inadequate, but at least we have strengthened it twice.

At the same time, we are allocating an additional \$25 million for additional shelter subsidies, which will help 50,000 low-income families. We are adding \$32 million to the child care budget, plus a statement of policy even she would support for a while. In community support services, we have \$13.5 million for additional services for seniors, \$10 million more for the disabled, \$5 million more for housing for the disabled and \$17 million for the developmentally handicapped.

We have improved OHIP premium assistance at a cost of an additional \$20 million. Once again, it is insufficient but a substantial improvement. These are just some of the things I have been able to draw off my crib sheet that leaped to my attention. It is not fair for her or her colleagues to indicate the government does not have a sensitive response to the needs of those less fortunate in the community.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do any other members have any comments or questions? The member for Ottawa Centre has up to two minutes.

**Ms. Gigantes:** I appreciate the comments of the Treasurer. It is my personal belief that if he had his way, we might have seen a great deal more progress and a great deal more progressive policy in the budget than we have seen. I am not at all convinced the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), the Premier (Mr. Peterson) or his other colleagues have any kind of sensitivity compared to that of the Treasurer.

Indeed, I believe he personally would like to do more.

He and his colleagues have failed to do more. To take the burden of provincial taxes and OHIP premiums off the working poor of Ontario, \$262 million has been allocated. There are 100,000 families in Ontario receiving no relief, 50,000 of whom will get a little shelter allowance assistance. It was a small step to take. What we have seen is a minor little ripple; we have not seen a step forward.

**Mr. Treleaven:** These excellent speeches should be listened to by more members. I do not believe a quorum is present.

Mr. Speaker ordered the bells rung.

**4:25 p.m.**

**Mr. Speaker:** A quorum is now present.

**Mr. Breagh:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Is it in order for the Deputy Speaker, who was just sitting in the chair but could not be aware that there was not a quorum in here, to leave the chair, come down to his seat over here and finally recover his vision enough to identify that there are not enough members sitting?

**Mr. Speaker:** In response to the honourable member, I believe it is in order for any member other than the Speaker to request a quorum.

**Mr. Callahan:** I listened to my colleague from the third party with reference to her comments about the sensitivity and the desire on the part of this government to be sensitive and to show initiative in solving the economic problems that exist for many Ontarians. I suggest that for the first time in the history of this province a particular government has dealt with it in a sensitive fashion in terms of what we are looking at for the future, not what is good for the next election or for the particular day, but what is good for an overall plan of dealing with these problems.

I do not think any member in this House can attack or comment on the way the Minister of Community and Social Services has cared and been concerned about what is happening in this province in terms of those people who do not have as much as you and I do. What is happening is that we are trying to find the long-term solution, not the short-term solution.

The member is saying that the parsimonious Treasurer should address all those issues in one fell swoop. That would be very popular. It would be something the member would applaud. I am sure it would make the headlines for about three days, but that is not the purpose of this government. The purpose of this government is



to serve the needs of this province and to look after the needs of this province in a sensitive fashion, to try to plan in a different fashion than occurred with the official opposition in those days when it skulked the halls of power worrying about what the next Decima poll might say with reference to the way it was caring about the bag lady on the street, the people who were on welfare and the children who had no chance of getting out of the predicament they were in.

This budget addresses innovation. It addresses the future for the children of this province. It does not address just the immediate needs for the purposes of being popular. Although it would have been fine for the Treasurer to have taken all the cookies out of the cookie jar and said, "Here it is; here is what we are going to do," that would have been dishonest. The Treasurer has addressed the needs that he sees now. I am sure that as budgets are presented by this Liberal government over the next 42 years, members will see all this unfold in a very sensitive and well-planned fashion.

**Ms. Gigantes:** Since the member referred to comments I made earlier, I point out to him that one cannot eat promises. It does not help poor kids to know there are promises from a Liberal government. They have to have food and housing and they have to be able to stay put in one school.

4:30 p.m.

**Mrs. Marland:** The member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan) is probably due an Academy Award when he stands and pleads and talks about children's needs. It is very interesting to have any member of the Liberal government stand up and talk about children's needs when the government has done what it has done with Bill 94 in terms of real children's needs.

I am talking again, as I mentioned yesterday, about the children in this province who require cranio-facial surgery. There is one doctor in Canada and two in the United States who are capable of rebuilding these children's faces, to use their own parents' words, from ugly to something that they can survive for the rest of their lives.

The fact that Bill 94 has sent Dr. Ian Munro to the United States is a tragedy for these families, because while the government has said it will perhaps pay the medical expenses—it is going to decide; the government is going to evaluate whether there is someone still capable of that kind of surgery in this city—in the meantime, those children, who will need the surgery at least into their teen-age years, will be deprived of the opportunity at least to have a face.

When the member for Brampton talks about children's needs, he might look very closely at the budget, which allocates no money whatsoever for women's shelters for families that are victims of violence in his own region, where we have one shelter for battered wives and children. There is no money in the budget for additional shelters for those women.

**Mr. South:** I have just a very brief remark. In regard to the honourable member's comment that only the well-off will be allowed to live downtown, that is a punishment they deserve. Anyone who wants to live downtown, good luck to him.

**Mr. Ashe:** I have to respond very briefly to the tirade, albeit delivered in a very appropriate way, by the member for Brampton. When I listened to the diatribe he was putting out about the past government and about what happened before compared to what is happening now, I once again frankly felt embarrassed.

The honourable member made references to the good government of the last 42 years and to a constituency that was so well and honourably represented until fairly recently, and he was able to come up with that kind of diatribe without even knowing what happened in the so-called hallowed halls of power, to paraphrase his words. I really felt embarrassed for him to know that this could come from a member who did not have a clue about what went on here and what was done here, not only by the member who represented that area and led this great province but also by the government that sat across there until May of last year.

**Mr. Callahan:** I am glad to see that one of those guys likes Bill, because he can tell that to the people in emergency who wait five hours.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the member for Brampton wish to respond for up to two minutes, rather than by way of interjection?

**Mr. Callahan:** Rather than by way of interjection: I have to say to the honourable member that, if he wished to talk to the people of my riding, who have to wait five or six hours in emergency in Peel Memorial Hospital, I am sure they would tell him we were not necessarily unrepresented. A Premier representing a riding has always been a difficulty. Because he is the head of the cabinet, he probably finds it difficult to ask for things for his own riding; so there is really a negative side to being the Premier and having to ask for those things.

During the 42 years the Conservative government was in power, I saw Brampton have



tremendous growth without addressing the needs of hospital services, courthouse facilities, transportation—name them, they are there, if the member wants to come out and see total chaos because of the growth and the inability of the former government to address those issues. I am sure this sensitive Liberal government will address those issues in a very direct way.

That is one of the things about the budget that really excites me. We do not run around, as ministers of the former government used to do, asking: "Would you like another arena? Would you like your roof repaired, even though you do not need it repaired? Would you like a Wintario grant for this, that and the other thing?"

We have now taken those funds and plugged them into hospitals, which are essential. The Treasurer has allocated \$850 million for hospitals in this province. No longer are we going to get the promise, "We will put you through the district health council, and five or 10 years down the line you will get your hospital." We are saying all of that will occur within five years, and the people of this province and the people of the fine city of Brampton will get their hospital. They will get their day.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. Sheppard:** I am delighted to rise and participate in the debate of the May 1986 economic and budgetary policies of the government. I must make a comment in regard to the member for Brantford.

**Mr. Gillies:** Brampton, please.

**Mr. Sheppard:** I mean the member for Brampton.

Nevertheless, if the Liberal government is going to do all of these things in the next five years, it had better carry out some of the promises it made in the last 11 months. Goodness gracious, they are so far behind in those promises, they may never catch up in the next five years. Nevertheless, we will wait and see.

When the Treasurer presented his maiden budget last October, I sympathized with him over his difficult task. After all, he was still getting used to the new position. Almost one year has gone by, however, and I expected much more from this year's budget. I was disappointed.

At first glance, it appeared that the budget did not really affect the average individual. Upon further study, the budget does not affect the average individual, but it does not do much for him either. Quite frankly, I was hoping this budget would deliver more in incentives and initiatives than the last budget did. Furthermore,

I was hoping, as I am sure most people in Ontario were, to see the realization of the many campaign promises made in 1985 that have yet to be fulfilled.

The Treasurer allocated \$26 million this year for the 10,000 subsidized day care spaces that were promised in the last budget but have yet to be created. This amount will not even begin to cover the commitment that was made last October. What is even more pathetic is the fact that a mere \$6 million was allocated to cover what the Treasurer has termed a pressing problem, including capital expansion with respect to child care.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare informs us that the government could probably cover one of three areas with the mere \$6 million allocated. It could reduce the cost of Ontario's 80,315 licensed day care spaces by 28 cents a day. The \$6 million could provide capital costs to set up 24 new day care centres, each with a capacity of 50 spaces. That could cover about 1,200 children or, in other words, a municipality the size of Port Hope in my riding of Northumberland, with a population of approximately 12,000.

Last but not least, the \$6 million could raise the salaries of the 10,000 Ontario day care workers by a little over \$11 a day. As members know, the average wage at present is about \$13,200 a year. I cannot possibly imagine which of these areas the Treasurer would call pressing; they all sound pressing to me and to the people of my riding.

If memory serves me correctly, in the 1985 election campaign the Liberals promised to reform the day care system in Ontario. I cannot agree more that day care is an issue that deserves priority attention at present. It is disturbing to note, however, that the budget lacks any kind of comprehensive strategy or policy direction for child care. Not one word was spoken with respect to rural day care. Furthermore, the Liberals totally ignored the thousands of middle-income families who cannot afford the high cost of day care and who are not eligible for subsidy.

Despite the fact that the Treasurer says he is aware of the plight of many Ontario farmers, we would never know it judging by this budget.

**4:40 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Expenditures are up 20 per cent in one year.

**Mr. Sheppard:** It is 13 per cent. There is an increase of 13.3 per cent in the overall agriculture budget for 1986-87, but that is still a far cry from the September 1984 promise made by the



Treasurer himself that a Liberal administration would double its commitment to agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Forty per cent in one year is not a bad start.

**Mr. Sheppard:** It is 13.3 per cent. An extension of the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program was anticipated. Further, the Treasurer announced expansion of the farm operating credit assistance program and the beginning farmers assistance program, both of which were introduced by the previous administration. I might add, "details to follow on this program." I certainly hope so; I am looking forward to hearing them.

The farmers in transition or FIT program must have left a bad taste in the mouths of the Treasurer and the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). After the last budget, we note the winding down of the program. The funding for this program is to be reallocated to other agricultural priorities at some time in the future. At least, I am sure it will be.

I seem to have missed any mention at all of any assistance for Ontario tobacco farmers. What about the Liberal-New Democratic Party accord for farm financing reform, including low-interest loans for farmers? As a farmer and more so as a representative of many farmers, I assure the Treasurer we have not forgotten that promise, which has yet to be fulfilled. How long are the Liberals going to keep up their Band-Aid relief program instead of coming up with long-term answers to the financial crisis our agricultural industry is currently faced with?

I cannot visualize how the Ministry of Transportation and Communications is supposed to make all types of repairs to Ontario highways such as Highway 401, considering how little money has been allocated to the ministry's budget. Highway 401 between Brighton and Port Hope is in dire need of repair, not next year but right now. Repairs have been put off and put off again because of lack of funding. It is beginning to look to me as though Highway 401 in my riding will never be repaired, despite the minister's promise that it will be taken care of. I must say that starting next week, Harnden and King, a contractor in my riding, is supposed to do 9.6 kilometres on Highway 401 between—*is the Treasurer listening?*—Cobourg and Brighton at a cost of \$1.6 million.

**Mr. Gillies:** Tell the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) about it.

**Mr. Sheppard:** I hope he is listening. I hope the minister can find more money to do more repair work on it. I was just talking to his

colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil). He told me himself, "The highway is in terrible shape, but they are working on it." The minister did a little patch job down there. I hope he will do a big long patch job between Highway 33 and Highway 28, more than what I have said here.

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** What did the member say?

**Mr. Sheppard:** I cannot hear the minister.

With respect to skills development, as my colleague the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) mentioned in her speech, the program we began last year would have established specific requirements for skills training with any company assisted through Enterprise Ontario activities. The funding, the framework and the direction were clearly established and laid out. This budget states that the goal is to expand and reshape the system, again with "further details to follow." I am happy to hear further details are forthcoming because, honestly, nothing is detailed in this budget with respect to skills development. We have no implementation dates, nor are we given any indication as to how the program will be set up.

Senior citizens must be disappointed once again by the failure of the government to establish the denticare program it promised during the 1985 election campaign.

**Mr. Gillies:** Another broken promise.

**Mr. Sheppard:** That is right. I am sure the Treasurer will get up in a few minutes and say, "The money is there, but I had to save it because there might be an election just around the corner."

Despite the fact that the Treasurer said, "Economic conditions warrant special attention in eastern Ontario," nothing specific was mentioned, unless one wants to cite the reorganization and a little increased funding to the Ontario Development Corp. To quote the Treasurer, "New funds will also be available to boost tourism in this region." What I need to know is how much money will be allocated and when he will see fit to give the so-called funds to eastern Ontario. I am already aware that boosting tourism in eastern Ontario is a must. We want to know how soon we are going to get that money.

Last, it is peculiar that approximately \$300 million of tax revenue, and I understand it is now close to \$1 billion, appears not to have been allocated in this Liberal budget. Is the government holding on to this play money, only to dole it out in new announcements as an election draws near? It is highly unlikely the Treasurer would displace such a figure.



In summary, this budget is unacceptable because it fails to support the development of our rural and single-industry communities. It also fails to provide for the preservation of our environment. I see that the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) has left. Basically, this budget repeats previously announced programs; no new programs are proposed or are only briefly mentioned. In most cases, we do not see any real announcements of dollars, but we hear of a lot of details to follow. This indicates to me that the Liberals have not been able to come up with their promised programs, despite having been in office for 11 months.

This evening at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Trenton, the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority is having a meeting to discuss landfill sites. A busload of 29 people, some from Hastings county, some from Peterborough county and the rest from the riding of Northumberland, went to Cuba, New York, to discuss and to see an incinerator works there. I hope the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) will have a look at that and perhaps be called to the riding of Northumberland or Hastings to discuss how and when an incinerator plant can be built. As I understand it, the incinerator plant in Cuba, New York, will produce enough steam to supply all the industries in Port Hope.

**Ms. Gigantes:** How much dioxin?

**Mr. Sheppard:** I do not know. I have not heard that yet.

There is one other thing I had hoped the Treasurer would put in his budget, which was to find some other way of raising taxes for elementary and secondary schools. In the riding of Northumberland, the school tax alone went up by 15.5 per cent in one year. The Treasurer should be looking for some other means to raise taxes for elementary and secondary schools.

I want to compliment the Treasurer on two things. He is allowing the new addition to the Campbellford Memorial Hospital to be carried on. The Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and I were down there to turn the sod on January 13. The addition is supposed to be completed in 18 months. I am glad to see the Liberal government is allowing the contractor to finish the fish culture centre in Harwood, as it will produce approximately 800,000 to 900,000 fish per year to supply the lakes and the streams in the county of Northumberland and the surrounding areas.

That is all I have to say at this time.

**4:50 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I want to make a couple of comments about the honourable member's

speech. I have a very high regard to him, of course. As a farmer, he has a certain practicality that always appeals. However, I want to make it clear that the 40 per cent—actually, 39 per cent—increase in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food budget is not in this budget; it is in this budget and the one last October. It is actually in the expenditures available from the estimates we inherited from the previous government to this time.

It is true, although it is not the policy of the government in general to double the money for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, that in opposition I made it very clear I felt the allocations were totally inadequate and I indicated at one moment that they should be doubled. Perhaps they will be if we wait long enough, but in less than a year they are up by 39 per cent.

I am also a little sensitive to the question, "What have you done for the tobacco farmers?" As the member knows, they are really under the economic gun now. They are having to accept a 30 per cent reduction in their agreed-upon purchases, and this is going to be extremely difficult for many farmers to cope with. I was in Tillsonburg last night in the backyard of the Deputy Speaker, who unfortunately was not able to attend for some reason, meeting with the tobacco farmers and trying to respond to them.

One of the things I put to them is that if the 45 per cent ad valorem tax that was imposed by the previous government had been in place, the revenue from taxation would have been increased this year by \$140 million. I pointed out to them that one of the more severe criticisms I get of the tobacco tax is that we did not raise it enough. Whatever the member thinks about that, those are the facts. There is \$140 million left in the business, which I believe is available to the manufacturers and the growers for improving their own position in support of export.

**Mr. Gillies:** First of all, I congratulate my colleague on an excellent speech. I can only concur with the Treasurer that the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard) has a tremendous grasp of the issues of concern to his constituents.

I would like to ask questions about a couple of them. My colleague mentioned that he felt there was some money missing from the budget that was unaccounted for in expenditures. I ask my colleague whether he thinks the fact that the government is taking in more revenue than it is going to expend means that the money which makes up that difference is being held for election goodies. I would be most interested to



know whether it is being held for election goodies.

My colleague mentioned the problem with Highway 401 east of this city, which has become known as pot-hole row. I am stunned, frankly. The last time I was in Northumberland with my colleague, he told me he was sure the Minister of Transportation and Communications was going to take care of that soon. I am absolutely astonished to hear it has not been done. I wonder whether my colleague could elaborate on any dealings he has had with the minister and advise the House when Highway 401 east of Toronto is going to be repaired. I would have thought it could be done.

My colleague did not touch on the question of the Brampton hospital, but the speaker before him did. I would like to ask my colleague whether he can confirm what I hear, namely, that the region and the province had approved the expansion of the Brampton hospital during the time when the former Premier was the member for that riding but the hospital decided not to proceed with it at that time, that Brampton could have had that hospital some years ago. I wonder whether my colleague could comment on that, because the member for Brampton has left the false impression on the floor that the former government did not want to build a hospital in Brampton, and I understand it did.

**Mr. Callahan:** I would not want to leave that impression without clarifying it. First, I point out to my colleague who just spoke the fact that this government is so sensitive that we do not deal with issues on a partisan basis. He put the shovel in the ground in January in his riding, which is a Tory riding, and yet in the Liberal riding of Brampton we have not put the shovel in the ground yet. I put to him that this government does not operate on the basis of what one's party politics is. It is very sensitive to the needs of the people of Ontario.

I heard something on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. the other day. I guess it is in New Brunswick or in Nova Scotia that one can tell when one is going through a riding of the opposition. It goes from pavement to dirt. That used to happen in this province too. I could always tell when an election was coming because the roads would get done. I would look at it and say to my four sons sitting next to me in the car, "There is going to be an election in a week or a month." They would ask, "How do you know that, Dad?" I would say, "You just wait and see." Lo and behold, there was an election. They

would ask, "How did you know, Dad?" I would say, "Because the roads were being done."

To get back to the issue of the Brampton hospital, I dogged the former Premier of this province about that issue for eight years through two previous elections. That issue was up front. It was the only issue and nothing was done about it—nothing, square root. The people of that riding are still waiting for it. I think we will see it happen under this sensitive Liberal government, but it will happen on the basis of need as opposed to partisanship as in the past.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I would also like to make a few comments. Possibly the member for Northumberland can clarify this if he has the information. To carry on from the comments of the member for Brampton, it was my understanding that when it came to hospital building, the Brampton hospital was slated but that they decided not to go ahead with the money at that time. That is very much part of my recollection. Possibly the member for Northumberland can comment on that.

When it comes to road building, the member for Northumberland had some excellent ideas and the member for Brampton was talking utter nonsense. Possibly the member for Northumberland can clarify something for me if he can recall. I believe the double-laning of the Burlington Bay Skyway was the biggest single contract ever let by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. If I remember correctly, that was not a Tory riding at the time the contract was let.

Lately, we have seen a lot of money spent west of Metro Toronto on highways and so on. Let us take, for example, Highway 403. Maybe the member for Northumberland can point out whether Highway 403 goes through or went through many ridings that were not held by the Tory government at the time. If my memory serves me correctly, the member for Brampton is talking such utter nonsense that it is hardly worth speaking anywhere, let alone in this great Legislature.

**Mr. Speaker:** I might draw to the member's attention, because I know the new standing orders are very new to the members, that item 20(a) states, "Following the speech of each member, a period not exceeding 10 minutes shall be made available, if required, to allow members to ask questions and comment briefly on matters relevant to the matters before the House...." I take it those are matters that have been placed before the House by the previous speaker. The previous, previous speaker has already had an opportunity to comment on the previous com-



ments, so I am sure all members will want to contain their comments and refer strictly to the comments made by the previous speaker.

**Mr. Gillies:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I very much appreciate your comments on the new rules. We are wrestling with them and trying to come to grips with the implications of the new standing orders and your guidance is much appreciated. I want your assurance. My colleague and I were surprised that my colleague the member for Northumberland failed to mention the Brampton hospital, so we wanted to get his comments on it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Thank you for your point of surprise. However, there is no time left for comments or questions. Therefore, the member for Northumberland has up to two minutes.

**5 p.m.**

**Mr. Sheppard:** I would like to make a couple of comments on the Campbellford Memorial Hospital. I am sorry I did not mention the Brampton hospital. It was the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) who, when he was Minister of Health, approved the addition and the money for the Campbellford Memorial Hospital. When the Conservative government was in power, we went down and had a sod-turning. I forgot to say it was the second sod-turning.

After the first sod-turning, we had to raise another five per cent of the money. The citizens of Campbellford and the surrounding municipalities had to come up with another \$280,000. We had a Liberal chairman of Campbellford Memorial Hospital and he wanted to have another official sod-turning. I went along with that because we could raise a little more money. I am sorry I did not mention that when I was speaking before. I hope the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan) now realizes why we had to have a second sod-turning.

I forgot to say one other thing to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. In the past 10 months, 18 people have been killed on Highway 401 between Highway 33 and Highway 28. The minister has a copy of the list of the 18 people killed on Highway 401. I bring that up because everybody is phoning and stopping me on the street no matter where I go and asking, "Howard, when are you going to get Highway 401 fixed before we lose more people?" That is why I am bringing it up now. I want to make sure that the minister of highways and communications realizes how desperately we need that road fixed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. Sheppard:** I would like to make a comment about agriculture.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. No.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I am pleased to have an opportunity to comment on the budget. In starting, I would like to draw attention to the province's income, the revenues the province gets. Then I wish to make a number of comments about agriculture because it is the area for which I am the critic. Then I will terminate with some comments on how the lack of action in the budget will affect the great riding of Durham-York and the people who live there.

It is interesting to see from the budget that the revenues of Ontario have increased 22 per cent since the time of the last Progressive Conservative budget, the 1984-85 budget. In about two years we have had an increase in revenues of 22 per cent. As we look at ourselves as individuals and as we look at any companies we see around the province, there are not a great many people or companies that have 22 per cent more money to spend today than they did in their personal or company budgets just two years ago. It is interesting that the Treasurer has had such a windfall of money. Any number of us would dearly love to have 22 per cent more money to deal with today than we had in our family budgets, our company budgets, our farm budgets or any sort of budget one can think of in that rather brief time.

It indicates that the Treasurer had relatively few major challenges to face in getting the document together. One looks at the income, the revenue he has, and then one starts to try to decide whether his decisions on how to expend that revenue were wise. As the Ministry of Agriculture and Food critic, I have heard the comments about the 39 per cent increase. One has to realize that is over two budget years and not 11 months. In fact, as we look back over the last three budgets as they relate to agriculture, the budget of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) when he was Treasurer gave a 16 per cent increase to agriculture. The first budget by this Treasurer had around 20 per cent, although I do not have—

**Mr. Breaugh:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think the speech is so bad but it appears to be bad enough to have driven most of the members out of the chamber. Will you check to see whether a quorum is present?

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.



5:07 p.m.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I thank the member for Oshawa for drawing to my attention the number that was present.

In the last three budgets as they relate to agriculture, we have seen a 16 per cent increase, then last year a 20 per cent increase and now this year a 13 per cent increase. These are fairly significant numbers and I do not argue with them at all. In times of modest stress to that industry, those sorts of increases would have been very thankfully received. They would have met the challenge facing the industry under most circumstances.

Unfortunately, we find ourselves in anything but an ordinary situation. We have excessive production in most of the commodities we produce well in this province, and those commodities are produced in some excess in pretty well all the major agriculture-producing countries around the world. The European Community, Australia and even countries such as China and India are beginning to be in an export position with a few of their crops, which is a relatively new development.

Droughts used to correct some of the production problems, but with agricultural production as broadly based as it is, it now requires some fairly significant disaster somewhere around the world to take some of the spikes out of the production system. We are seeing one of those periods of excess production now. That increase in production is partly due to improved technology, partly due to better trained farmers, partly due to relatively good weather conditions over the past few years and partly due to government programs in various parts of the world. The two jurisdictions that have aggravated excess production in the major producing countries by excessive subsidization, I suppose one could say excessive payments to the producers, are the European Community and the similar thing we see going on in the United States.

Not only do we see the agricultural stage littered with government programs but we also see extremely low prices around the world for most of our commodities. We enter this industry in this production year with an economic situation that I suspect is as bad as it was in the 1930s for many producers. Our farmers look around and see relative prosperity in most other sectors of our economy. Other workers who suffered considerably during the 1981-82 period now are living somewhat more comfortably than they did then. Unfortunately, the agricultural portion of the economy has not pulled out of that

recession period; indeed, if anything, the situation has got worse.

In looking at the budget, I want to discuss briefly what other jurisdictions have done with their budgets to try to cope with the situation around the world. It is interesting that no provincial government can idly stand by and watch a disproportionate number of its farmers go out of business simply because the support for farmers in that province is not as good as that in other jurisdictions. We cannot allow an excessive number of Ontario farmers to get into severe financial crisis just because our support system does not match that of the European Community or the United States. We must somehow try to stay in the shadows of those programs to give our producers a fighting chance.

We look at a government that talks about 39 per cent in one year; that is 39 per cent spread over two budgets or basically two years. Let us look at what some of the competition has done in that time. First, let us look across the border briefly to see the impact of the US farm bill. That bill has been in development for several months. It was debated in Washington for several weeks and passed on December 3, 1985. The estimated cost of that farm bill to the US Department of the Treasury at the time of passage was \$54 million. With prices staying down the way they are, it now is estimated that the cost of that bill to the US Treasury will be somewhere between \$70 billion and \$110 billion. We can hardly imagine those numbers here, almost triple the value of the total Ontario budget.

That gives some indication of the funding that is going to US farmers. In all likelihood, they will be selling their crops next year on the world market. Corn, for example, will be sold on the world market at somewhere in the order of C\$100 to C\$120 per ton. The American farmers will receive a deficiency payment that will give them approximately C\$167 per ton. When one looks from corn to soybeans to dairy cattle and through the whole US farm bill, the story is the same.

Let us look at what Canadian governments have attempted to do in the light of low commodity prices, which are being significantly aggravated by the US farm bill. Let us start with Alberta. Alberta has about 46,000 farmers, or about three fifths of the 80,000 farmers in Ontario. Alberta's agricultural budget was increased 75 per cent this year. The agricultural budget in that province is now \$434 million for about three fifths the number of farmers we have here. I am not going back two budgets to come up with a figure of 39 per cent, as the minister is. I



am looking at just one budget with a 75 per cent increase in funding to agriculture.

That was \$214 million last year and \$434 million this year. Those figures do not include any money going from the heritage fund to the agricultural industry. Among the programs for the agricultural industry funded out of the heritage fund is one that is in line with the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program and the farm operating credit assistance program rolled into one. Alberta has a program for its producers that subsidizes interest rates on operating money for this year's production, as well as medium-term capital for buildings and that sort of thing. The interest rate is written down on a total amount of \$2 billion.

I am not sure what that interest-rate write-down would work out to, but it would cost many millions of dollars to subsidize \$2 billion worth of capital borrowing. That new program was put in place in January of this year on top of a budget for the Alberta Department of Agriculture that was already increased by 75 per cent. This is how that government has reacted to the extreme situation that exists in our agricultural industry today.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** They had an election coming and almost lost.

**Mr. Stevenson:** There may be a bit of politics mixed up in it. I would not suggest there is not. What is the situation in Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** We do not have any of that here.

**5:20 p.m.**

**Mr. Stevenson:** I will get back to a few of the member's comments from just over a year ago and we will see how much politics is involved in the situation in Ontario.

I am not going to go on at great length, but Alberta also has a fertilizer rebate program to write off the energy cost component of the fertilizer going into agriculture. That program is in addition to the \$434 million.

Alberta has a feed grain market adjustment program that corrects for the Crow's Nest Pass freight-rate changes to the livestock producers in Alberta, and that is a payment of \$21 per ton of feed to the livestock industry out there to adjust for the changes that this Crown's Nest Pass rate change has caused in their livestock sector.

It just adds up and up; I do not have the total figure. However, I come back to the fact that those are all over and above the \$434 million in their actual agriculture budget. I repeat that there was a 75 per cent increase in the agriculture

budget to the farmers and associated agricultural industry of Alberta.

While our Minister of Agriculture and Food goes around the province patting himself on the back for the changes here in Ontario, let me tell members that, in relation to the farmers of Alberta, those of Ontario have fallen further behind in one year than ever before in the history of agriculture in this country. All we can say to Ontario farmers is "Good luck" when they are trying to compete with the farmers in Alberta.

Next I would like to give some attention to Quebec. Quebec used to get a lot of attention from my colleagues across the aisle when they were on this side of the House and were taking shots at us for not living up to programs that other governments were bringing in at the time. Quebec was usually the province they held out as the one that was leading the parade in government programs.

It is very true that there were a number of programs we did not copy; I certainly agree that this happened. In hindsight I would say that in many ways I am sorry we did not match some of those programs. I am frankly quite surprised that various governments are continuing to exacerbate the supply situation in some of our commodities in the world market. That said, however, we in this province cannot sit idly by and let our farmers go down the drain in disproportionate numbers only because we are not matching the programs of other countries.

Let us look at Quebec. It has considerably fewer farmers than we have—there are not many more than half the farmers in Quebec that we have in Ontario—and what is its budget this year? It is \$514 million, substantially higher than the \$457 million here in this province, for 48,000 farmers. I may add that this year a few programs have dropped off the list in Quebec; a few programs have terminated. Still, there is a \$514-million budget in Quebec.

It is interesting to note that the present Treasurer, speaking just before a particular event on May 3 last year, said that we must double the agricultural budget. Here are the Treasurer's own figures from his speech. He said Quebec was spending the equivalent of \$8,358 on each farmer in that province. He had it figured out to four significant digits, and who am I to argue with the Treasurer? In Ontario it is just over \$5,000, if my memory serves me right. In Alberta, in case the members are interested in knowing, the figure is about \$12,000.

When we look at that, all we can say is that our figures were closer together a year ago than they



are today because of the substantial increases in those budgets in other jurisdictions. I repeat that Ontario farmers have fallen further behind in the past year than ever before in the history of agriculture in this country, and the figures are all here. The Treasurer does not have to take my word for it. He can phone up and get them for himself.

Just to give members some examples of how responsive some of the other governments have been in a period when the provincial Liberals here are patting themselves on the back, I would again use the example of Quebec. We have a situation of an oversupply of potatoes. We have heard this quite a bit recently in the news and so on. The Quebec government has spent \$18.4 million this year alone on support to its potato producers in the province. This was done totally without federal government involvement in that program. It is a Quebec program.

We can also look at Prince Edward Island. It brought in \$3 million for stabilization and \$3 million for a buy-up program for potatoes, totalling \$6 million in provincial input.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Where are the potatoes?

**Mr. Stevenson:** Yes, I know where the potatoes are now.

It then went to the federal government and asked for its participation in this program. The federal government matched it, for a total of \$12 million to the potato sector of Prince Edward Island. In New Brunswick it was \$3 million from the province and \$3 million from the feds. In every case the provincial government acted first and the federal government came along to match those programs.

In Ontario, we are fortunate in a way that we do not have the same oversupply situation. As I understand it, it appears that the potatoes in storage in this province will probably be sold out by the time the new crop comes out of the fields. However, our farmers have sold their potatoes and will likely sell those in storage on the same depressed market for which the other producers have received very considerable support.

We do not need a buy-up program such as Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick have partially received, but we could use a stabilization payment of some type. Potatoes are one of the designated commodities in the stabilization program, and if the two governments agree to work together on it, there can be a payment in this crop year for potatoes.

So far, our potato producers have received a telegram from Ontario. The telegram said that if Ottawa gets involved, we will too. That is

another indication of what Quebec and other provinces have done and of where Ontario sits on that issue. Once again, although Ontario has done a fair bit—I do not argue with that—compared to the others, and with the position our producers are in compared to the others, we are unfortunately not in the ball game this year. That is quite different from what we read in the minister's speeches or the press releases that are going out.

I would like to talk very briefly about Saskatchewan, and I happen to have a copy of the Saskatchewan budget here with me. I also have a copy of a little brochure, The Saskatchewan Agriculture Assistance Program. It is a nice little summary of the programs that are available to the farmers in Saskatchewan. Unfortunately, I neglected to bring the one from Alberta with me. I could have spent considerably more time on the Alberta programs than what I have briefly discussed.

**5:30 p.m.**

I point out that Saskatchewan, which the third party would say has in the recent past been a very enlightened province, and we in this party would like to think is still a very enlightened province, has a total budget of \$3.7 billion. The agricultural portion of that budget is \$200 million, almost half of what Ontario budgets for agriculture. Its total budget of \$3.7 billion compares to \$31.5 billion for Ontario. I may be looking at the wrong table and it may be \$29.9 billion. No, that is revenue; I think I was right the first time and it is \$31.5 billion. We have a budget in Ontario that is about 10 times that of Saskatchewan, but its agriculture budget is half of ours.

They give much greater support to agriculture in Saskatchewan than Ontario does. What sort of budget increase do the members suppose they have had over the past year? It was 100 per cent in one budget. That is a government that realizes the agriculture industry is in trouble and is willing to fund it to keep the industry alive in that province. The agriculture industry possibly provides a greater share of the gross provincial product of Saskatchewan than it does in Ontario. I would have to look up those figures to be sure.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** You mean you are not sure that it is a bit greater.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I am relatively sure.

The share that agriculture contributes to the gross provincial product of this province is nothing to sneeze at either. My discussion on the relative funding is not out of order at all. When we look at the size of the increases in the provincial budgets, Ontario is being lost in a



cloud of dust as these other governments race ahead of us. I am not including anything in the figures I am quoting that comes from various other funding agencies or heritage programs in Saskatchewan.

I draw to the attention of the Treasurer a new program in existence there that is somewhat similar to Alberta's. It assists in the write-down of interest rates from the going rate down to six per cent. That program started in January. It is a new program that is responding to the very serious needs of agriculture at this time in our country. That program will write down the interest rate to six per cent on \$1.2 billion of operating money for the farmers of Saskatchewan. When I say \$1.2 billion, that was their plan. It now appears it will be closer to \$2 billion because, as of a month or more ago, the farmers had already borrowed almost \$1 billion. It was clear there was still a lot of money yet to go for this production year.

They also have a livestock cash advance program that is very important to the beef and sheep producers. It is an interest-free program for 12 months. The production loan program is the one I was just talking about that assists them in getting in their crops for this year. There is also a farm purchase program, which is very useful to their farmers.

Once again it is clear that other governments are responding to the current needs of agriculture. They are responding in such a way as to give very extensive increases in agricultural budgets. I repeat that Alberta, Saskatchewan and the United States are our biggest competitors in the grain and red meat areas. Those are the sectors that are being hurt the most in today's agricultural economy. In the light of the 39 per cent in the last two years that this government pats itself on the back about, I can very safely and correctly say that Ontario farmers have fallen farther behind in the last year than in any other year in the history of agriculture in this country.

I want to go just a little bit further on the situation in Saskatchewan. I will go through this book page by page and draw attention to some of the programs that have been in place since roughly 1980 and to some of the programs we were being sniped at for not following during the last four or five years, as government funding to agriculture has tended to increase, and then compare those in value with the programs that have been developed since this Liberal government has been in power.

Just to leaf through this fairly quickly, there is a program here that since 1982 has paid a total of

\$34 million, about \$8 million a year. That is a fairly significant amount of money. I do not complain at all about any program giving any sector \$8 million per year. That is one of the programs we did not follow to a great extent. There is another one here that has paid out \$7 million since 1982. There we are talking about less than \$2 million a year.

Compare those to what we are seeing in the new programs that have been announced in the last year. Quite frankly, the old programs are nickels and dimes compared to the 100 per cent increase in budget to the farmers in Saskatchewan and the 75 per cent increase in budget in Alberta.

If we turn the page back, they say: "You were in power for so long. Why did you not do some of these things?" The few programs we did not match are absolute nickels and dimes compared to the programs that have not been matched by this government in the last year. The differences are so many millions of dollars that it is hardly worth talking about the old programs. They are not even in the same ball game.

**5:40 p.m.**

Just to put things a little bit into perspective on how Ontario farmers are likely to be able to compete with the three major jurisdictions with which we have to compete, our people are in for a tough period ahead. Concerning what we are likely to see coming out of the funding increase in agriculture in the three major areas, although the announcements have not been made yet, the report of the interministerial task force makes it fairly clear that we are going to see the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program extended. I hope the percentage equity requirements in that program will be altered somewhat to allow more farmers to participate.

I think we are going to see the farm operating credit assistance program extended and expanded. I imagine FOCAP will be brought down from 9.75 per cent, or whatever it is at now, to eight per cent so that it will be at the same interest rate that OFFIRR is still on. I would applaud that move if it happened.

The beginning farmer assistance program will be altered, and there will be some changes that I can welcome. I am not sure what the government will make on BFAP, but those changes could be helpful to our young farmers in this province.

That is about it for that portion of this budget and how the budget increases here compare with those in other jurisdictions with which we have to compete in a significant way. Again, before I leave it, let me just say that the facts are very



different from the rhetoric and, again, good luck to Ontario farmers as they try to compete in the markets here in Canada and around the world in the next year or two.

Tobacco has been mentioned as an area of concern. The Treasurer is from an area where tobacco is grown very extensively in part of the major producing areas in his riding. Tobacco is an industry in which major restructuring is going on, and I am afraid there will continue to be some major restructuring during the next few years. We have a situation where we have a fair bit of tobacco in storage, more than the companies really need, because they buy tobacco ahead of time for ageing, processing, mixing and so on. I believe they like to have about a year's supply in storage, at least several months, and they have considerably more than that at this time. We also have a relatively large crop from 1985 to get rid of, so that the supply side is aggravated a bit on two counts.

Interestingly enough, exports have been relatively good this year and, fortunately, they have been able to get rid of a portion of the tobacco crop. In some ways it moved more easily than some had suspected it might. I understand that a new agreement has been drawn up for this year's tobacco crop, one that is a compromise in this particular crop and one that I suspect is not particularly pleasing to either the producers or the manufacturers.

It is somewhat unfortunate that the Treasurer did not take a little more of a leading role in sorting out this situation. I believe the federal government has taken a positive step in allocating money to the restructuring of that industry. I know the Treasurer would say that by not increasing taxes in a big way he has left money in the industry to help it restructure itself. That move is to be applauded. I am not sure, however, that this alone will get the job done in the way that may be necessary.

I hope the Treasurer is still in a position to guarantee the manufacturers a tax increase of less than the consumer price index in the next year or two or three if, indeed, the Treasurer happens to be in that position that long, and can give reasonable assurance that in the foreseeable future, to whatever extent the Treasurer can view it, the tax situation will be at least moderately stable in order to assist the restructuring of that industry.

Clearly, there will be people in Ontario who will continue to smoke and there will be continuing exports. It appears there is a domestic market of 80 million to 90 million pounds. It

looks as though it may stabilize at that level. A few pessimists say it is likely to stabilize at as low as 70 million pounds. There appears to be an export market that could stabilize at 50 million to 60 million pounds. One would therefore think we could in the future have a viable tobacco production industry and a reasonable economy in the communities that exist in that area if we could get the industry from where it is today to the restructured position of the future.

I believe the Treasurer is going to have to take a somewhat more progressive, and maybe aggressive, position in getting that restructuring to occur. It will not be easy to reach a consensus on how that should be done, but I am not sure that just walking away and washing his hands of the situation will get it accomplished. The more quickly we get the industry restructured and in reasonable stability, the better the message that will be sent out to the international tobacco markets and the more quickly we will be able to get our position stabilized in that export market.

We have lost some markets over the years that we will be able to reclaim. We have a degree of political stability in this province. I would not like to say how much, but certainly more than Zimbabwe, possibly Brazil and some of our other major competitors. For that reason and because of the good quality of Ontario-grown tobacco, we should be able to hold our current markets and expand somewhat into some of our former markets. The more quickly we send out that message to the world tobacco markets, the better the producers in the tobacco belt will be.

In the budget area, we are putting a fair bit of money into stabilization. I must express my disappointment at the way the 1985 stabilization payment has been made to the farmers of Ontario. The minister rushed into signing that agreement the week of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's annual meeting last November so that he could walk in to great applause. Some six months later we have the tripartite stabilization forms for hogs in the mail. Many of last year's pork payments and some of the beef payments have been made.

It was the opinion of most farmers that if last year's payments had been made in last year's fiscal year, that money would have been in their pockets in time to assist with getting this year's crops in the ground. Unfortunately, for most of the beef producers, that has not happened and some of them are hurting a little more than would have been expected because of the tremendous delays in that payment.



5:50 p.m.

It is interesting that last year's beef stabilization payment was made on a pounds-gained basis and that, at least to start, the tripartite stabilization program is on a per head basis. The minister admitted before the cheques were in the mail that last year's program was a total disaster, that they could not repeat that type of payment system and that they had to go with something else. They were not able to develop a new system quickly enough to put it into tripartite stabilization, so they have gone with the same program as Alberta.

It is interesting that our minister signed in November, their minister signed in January and Alberta's concept for tripartite stabilization went to the printer one month ahead of that of Ontario. The Manitoba minister was able to get his act in order three months quicker than the Minister of Agriculture and Food for Ontario. I do not know why that has not been brought to the attention of more people. The disorder in the minister's office on Bay Street is quite evident in his inability to deal with these issues with the same degree of haste and expertise that his competitors in other provinces are able to deal with them.

Because of contaminants in food, we have recently heard a fair bit about food imports. This government has made promises to try to reduce the portion of the consumer's budget that goes to buying imported foods. This past winter, a carrot promotion program was paid for by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. At that time, one of the major packing companies and one of the major food chains were using imported carrots, with Ontario-produced carrots sitting in storage. The week the provincial government was funding the carrot promotion, a good chunk of Ontario consumers was buying imported carrots and the provincial promotion was promoting the purchase of a considerable percentage of imported carrots.

That is not the process our producers had hoped this government would carry out. As they promote Ontario-grown produce in the future, I hope they will try to assure themselves that Ontario produce has full access to the market at the time of their promotions and that they will be promoting our products and not those of other countries.

I now would like to make a few comments on how the budget relates to the riding of Durham-York. I am not going to mention many areas. My riding is totally small-town Ontario. The biggest communities are Keswick, Uxbridge and Port Perry. From those we go to smaller communities

such as Sutton. A few members have cottages around Lake Simcoe and they keep reminding me that they spend some very lovely days of the season, particularly the summer season, along Lake Simcoe. I have in my riding the south shoreline of Lake Simcoe and the south shoreline of Lake Scugog. Tourism, agriculture and small business are the economic heartbeat of the riding.

I have talked previously about some of the agricultural issues and so I will not mention them in specific reference to the riding, but every issue I have talked about, with the exception of tobacco, has obvious implications for the great riding of Durham-York.

I want to state my concern about the way the tourism budget has been handled in the last two budgets. We have a growing industry that is going to be even more important to our economy by the year 2000 than it is today. In order of importance it is now second or third, depending on who is arguing the case. We would like to see that industry promoted as much as possible, particularly in a period when there is some concern about safety in overseas travel and when our Canadian dollar is valued lower than that of the United States.

We are likely to see an increase in the number of tourists from our neighbour to the south over the next year or two. Ontario would like to have its fair share, and if possible more than its fair share, of that tourism dollar. I find it of some concern that this government is not giving tourism the high profile it used to have. That will have a major impact on my riding.

We have an excellent five-star motel-hotel complex, the Briars, on the south shore of Lake Simcoe. Many in this Legislature will know of that facility. It benefited from previous Ontario government programs. I would be sorry to see those types of initiatives minimized by this government so that resorts such as the Briars cannot continue to enjoy them.

The cut that has most hurt the riding of Durham-York has been the termination of the marinas program, particularly the very popular small marinas program, of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Seven marinas in my riding had picked up the forms to make application for that program; unfortunately, it was terminated.

Small marinas are costly to set up and to maintain. For instance, the retainer walls in the slip areas are costly to put in, but are important to minimize the erosion problems and the silting associated with many marinas. These retainer walls do not help with cash flow or with the revenue position of the marina. Even though they



are a very worthwhile addition to a marina, they hurt the revenue position because of the high capital cost of putting them in place. It is unfortunate this program was taken away from those small marinas.

**6 p.m.**

It was also intended to help with improved pump-out facilities for waste water on boats. For environmental reasons, that was an important aspect. The Minister of Natural Resources is in the House at the moment. I hope he will carry my words back to his ministry, to his policy development people and to the Treasurer and come up with a program somewhat along the lines of that small marinas program. I do not expect him to bring it in under the same name or with exactly the same thrust. The minister can put his own label on it and redesign it as he will, but he should not go through his term as minister without bringing something along that line back in.

Pleasure boating is growing substantially every year. One just has to look at the number of boats that use the Rideau and the Trent-Severn waterways, and those numbers are increasing substantially. We might as well capitalize on that growth area in tourism. If we can get boats in from our neighbours across the Great Lakes, by all means let us do it.

With that I move to a concern I have about a Board of Industrial Leadership and Development funding allocation to a marina in Keswick. I have heard some statements that all of that money may not flow. I hope the Treasurer will check into that. Undoubtedly, I will be talking to him in the future.

There is a marina out there, one of several on Lake Simcoe that are moving forward with very significant capital development. This particular one has arranged for boats to come in from the United States—large boats that spend the winters in Florida and are running out of St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and all over the south side of the Great Lakes. They are running through Ontario waterways in the summertime and in the southern waterways in the winter.

When these people come to one's area, they do not buy just ice-cream cones and cans of pop; they spend big dollars. Just to pull one of those boats in for service alone is a major economic boost to a marina operator. We have a few on the lake. Dawson's Marina in particular serves all the boating traffic, but it particularly serves some of the big pleasure boats. It would be unfortunate to lose the thrust of that development. We can certainly serve them in the Great Lakes marinas

and ports, but let us not just keep them there. Let us get them through our system. Let them see more of this beautiful province of ours. For the sake of a few thousand bucks, let us not shut it off to the important lake, Lake Simcoe. I will leave it at that.

While we are talking very briefly about Lake Simcoe, I would like to say to the Minister of Natural Resources that I am pleased the ministry is going to increase the stocking level, as had been planned previously, of the whitefish population in Lake Simcoe. I was a little disenchanted, as the minister will recall, that he was not going to go ahead with the fish culture station along that lake. We would prefer to see those whitefish produced on its shores so that they would be less likely to be trucked to some other lake to share the stocking. However, if it cannot be where we would like to see it, at least we are glad to see that they are being brought in from elsewhere.

I trust the minister will not forget there is an option to put a future fish culture station on the shoreline of Lake Simcoe, which, by the way, I understand is the most intensively fished lake in Ontario on a per area basis. Sport fishing in both winter and summer is a major item in the local economy, with 25 per cent of all the licensed ice-hut operators in the province operating on Lake Simcoe alone. I trust the Treasurer will continue to support the stocking of that lake, and with the significant increase in revenue he will have now for the sport fishing industry, I hope Lake Simcoe will get its fair share of that money.

We have a task force under way studying Lake Scugog. The Minister of Natural Resources may be aware that Lake Scugog is a relatively shallow lake with significant weed growth in it. Milfoil got in there in the mid-1970s and has grown at an epidemic rate. It now interferes with pleasure boating. Lake Scugog is also a very important sport fishing lake with excellent pickerel and bass fishing. It is relatively close, as is Lake Simcoe, to the Metro Toronto and Golden Horseshoe areas and, hence, also gets very heavy fishing. That task force may well be bringing proposals to the provincial government to assist with dealing with the weed situation in that lake. I trust the minister will give it a favourable hearing if those proposals come forward.

I want to mention the situation of Highway 89. Unfortunately, the Minister of Transportation and Communications has left. Most of the extension of that highway would have gone through the riding of Durham-York. The portion of that extension from Keswick to Sunderland



has received environmental approval and can go ahead. The portion that was under significant environmental examination was the portion through the Keswick Marsh, across the Holland River and through the property of the Ministry of Natural Resources on the other side of the Holland River south of Cook Bay.

We had an environmental hearing in 1981 or early 1982 that dealt very extensively with that road. It was in that hearing that the previously mentioned portion was approved, and MTC was then sent back to get two more years of data on the marsh and river crossings. A thorough analysis was done and there was no consensus on whether the road should proceed. That report was given to the Minister of Transportation and Communications and then to the Minister of the Environment, with several ministries commenting on the idea of whether that road should be built across Keswick Marsh and the Holland River.

Most of the agencies approved of the road's construction, as I understand it from what I have read. Environment Canada had significant concerns. As I recall, Environment Canada did not comment on the first environmental assessment, but I could be wrong on that. I do not recall it taking a major position on the roadway.

**6:10 p.m.**

Unfortunately, the decision appears to have been made largely for political reasons. The people in that area know the lake must survive. The lake is the most significant economic factor in that portion of the province, and it must be healthy or the whole economy in that area would collapse significantly. Clearly, the lake comes first and the road second.

People who know the area and the lake, and most of the agencies that commented on the environmental assessment, thought the road could have been built without serious environmental impact. I do not pretend to be an expert on the issue and I was prepared to go along with the final decision, but I had hoped the final decision would be made on the scientific findings of that extensive study. To my disappointment, I am not at all sure that is the way the final decision was made. Anyway, that crossing has been cancelled. I suspect that part of the issue is dead. We must therefore go ahead and look at some other way of handling east-west traffic through that part of the province.

Anyone who has tried to travel from Barrie to Lindsay or from Barrie to Sutton knows it is almost impossible to give anybody directions on how to get across the south end of Lake Simcoe.

Unless you know the area, you get lost unless you go a long way south to find a road across. With Highway 404 going north we are soon—I hope it will be soon—going to have excessive traffic on Davis Drive at Newmarket.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Davis Drive?

**Mr. Stevenson:** Davis does have a familiar ring to it. It is a very positive name in the history of Ontario.

That traffic will be hitting that section of central Ontario and will put a tremendous burden on the regional and municipal roads going through there. Somehow we must have a major east-west road that will link Highways 7 and 12, and Highways 48 and 404 to help disperse that north-south traffic.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** What happened to the 15-minute Tory speeches we usually get?

**Mr. Stevenson:** I was not aware of any—the issues I am talking about are very important.

**Mr. Breagh:** He wants you to build a new Peterson Parkway.

**Mr. Stevenson:** If the government will put it in, I will be happy to have it called the Peterson Parkway.

Just building the easterly section of that road would be a major benefit to the area.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It is \$160 million extra in the estimate. Why does the member not talk to the minister?

**Mr. Stevenson:** The amount of money we are asking for is peanuts compared to what the government is spending in the budget. We just require a modest amount of money, a relatively few million dollars. I trust the Treasurer will look at that part of the province and its obvious need for a road. There just is not one now that can be followed by any person who does not know the area well.

The last item I wish to discuss is the area of small business. In small-town Ontario, which the riding of Durham-York is—many other members have similar ridings—I hope the small business initiatives this government has taken in the budget turn out to be real and not just a shuffling of programs and a shuffling of budgets.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member can rely on it.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I know what the Treasurer means when he says we can rely on it. I will wait and see. I hope I am pleasantly surprised as those programs are announced in the future. I hope the developing business community in those towns can look forward to some government participa-



tion in getting some of their businesses expanded and initiated.

With that I will terminate my discussion. If any other members have any comments or questions, I will be quite happy to address them.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does any member have any comments or questions for the member for Durham-York?

**Mr. Treleaven:** I am glad the Treasurer is here. As the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, he has knowledge of the tobacco area. He represents many tobacco farmers who are suffering so badly at the present time. Perhaps the member for Durham-York omitted or just forgot to mention the Redux program that the tobacco farmers need so badly.

From the tobacco belt, we have heard the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil), the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller), the Treasurer and so on. We certainly have heard from the tobacco farmers, who have asked that if taxes were going to be put up on cigarettes, some of this money be used in the Redux program to go back to the tobacco farmers to take some of the quota out of existence to try to stabilize the market. I invite the Treasurer to take his two minutes to comment on that and I invite the member for Durham-York to comment on that in his response.

Another thing is that the agreement to which the member for Durham-York referred, which has been placed in front of the tobacco board, calls for, I believe, 94.5 million pounds. The tobacco farmers are somewhat in shock at that. It is estimated this will mean that between 800 and 1,000 tobacco farm families are going to go out of agriculture this year; they are going to have to leave their farms. Again, I ask the Treasurer to comment on these 800 to 1,000 farm families that will have to leave the farm as a result of this. Perhaps the government could increase it to 115 million pounds for this year and give some kind of guarantee. The Treasurer might reflect on that.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven) makes a number of good points that were somehow omitted from the speech we are commenting on. I know you brought that to our attention in your interpretation of the rules, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, we share a concern for the tobacco farmers, and I think this concern is shared by four or five other members of the House. Unfortunately, it does not extend far beyond that, and that is quite a serious matter.

The honourable member is aware that if the tax level that had been established by the previous Conservative government had been continued,

an additional \$140 million would have come into the coffers of the Treasury of Ontario. Instead of that, we have twice raised the tobacco tax, but only by the cost-of-living measurement. For example, in this budget it was raised by 0.13 cents per cigarette. In the federal budget—that is, the Progressive Conservative government of Canada's federal budget in February—the tax then was raised by 5.3 cents per package of 25 cigarettes. If it has some money for special programs, of course, it could be based on that very large increase in revenue that has resulted, according to the tobacco marketing board, in a substantial loss in sales.

The loss in sales has not been that large in Ontario. The sales this year have been relatively level—in fact, a bit higher. Some of the honourable members opposite have commented on that in the past, particularly the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling), who wants us to raise the taxes on tobacco substantially.

The other thing is that the federal government promised in the most recent election that there would be national marketing powers. It might have given these at one stage even when the former Liberal government was in office, but this was stopped by federal Conservative members, as the member for Oxford well knows. Then, when the Conservatives took office, although they promised to bring in legislation, it was never proceeded with.

**6:20 p.m.**

**Mr. Breaugh:** I wanted to get in a couple of other points that were omitted from the member's speech, I am sure by accident. He talked a great deal about transportation and yet he did not have very much to say about the extension of the GO train east to Oshawa. I know he would have wanted to do that because his riding is just north of mine and a lot of his constituents would be able to use that facility. It is an important service that was promised by a previous government on a number of occasions. It then scrapped the program entirely.

I had an interesting conversation with the minister the other day. He assures me that in this budget is some money for GO train facilities and extending them to Oshawa. That is one point the member for Durham-York would want to mention.

There were a couple of others things he skirted around a little bit. He would also have wanted to mention that there is a crying need to diversify the industrial base throughout the region of Durham. Many of his constituents in Durham-York work in the industrial base located in Ajax,



Pickering, Whitby and in the fine community of Oshawa.

I am sure he would want to use the last couple of minutes he will have as an opportunity to put some substance into his speech and to address himself to those matters.

**Mr. Sterling:** I could not let the opportunity go by without commenting in some way on tobacco tax as introduced by this budget. I believe I will have the opportunity to speak in the debate, but it should be made in the context of what has been said by the member for Oxford and the Treasurer. There is a difference in what the two men are suggesting.

The member for Oxford realizes there is a problem in the tobacco industry, particularly in the agricultural end of the tobacco industry. He wants to help out those tobacco farmers with the Redux program. I think he is correct, but it takes some gutsy action on the part of the Treasurer to implement such a program.

With each one-cent raise on a package of cigarettes, \$7 million flows into the Treasury and cigarette consumption is cut down in this province. That is good for the health of our people in Ontario since more than 10,000 of them die each year because of smoking.

If the Treasurer had the guts to raise the tax to raise \$100 million, which would mean about 14 or 15 cents more a pack, he could take that money and really address the situation which our tobacco farmers are facing. The consumption would be cut down to a degree where the farmers would suffer only a \$1-million loss. He would therefore have \$99 million which he could use to benefit the farmers and get them on to another vocation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired. I find it somewhat difficult to listen to the debate by many of the members informing the member for Durham-York of things he left out of his speech. By doing that, I am afraid they probably disallowed him time to reply because he is not replying to their comments on what he said earlier. Is that the wrong interpretation? The member for Durham-York has two minutes.

**Mr. Stevenson:** There were a few things I did leave out because I was watching the time very carefully and I did not want to go on at great length. Therefore, I did leave out a few items that were out of my riding.

I thank the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) for pointing out things such as the GO train and the industrial development in the south end of Durham-York because they are very important to the people who live in my area.

I also thank the member for Oxford for his comments. He did remind me of the impending cancellation of the farmers in transition program which was in the budget just a few months ago. The FIT program was to assist farmers in transition and was primarily set up to help the tobacco growers. That program has been a total embarrassment to the government. Fortunately, the federal government came along with a program that would do some of the same work and—

Interjection.

**Mr. Stevenson:** The one this government copied from Alberta; so it is not new at all. Anyway, the feds are now going to take over. There is ample room to use the \$6 million for restructuring in that area. Unfortunately, the government did not see fit to rename it, re-address it or put it along with the federal program to try to come up with something that would really help the tobacco belt of Ontario.

The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk knows very well of the severe stress on the communities and families in that area. He has worked hard over the past few years to assist those people with the changes they are going through, and I know he will continue to do so to the maximum extent possible.

**Mr. Sterling:** I have a number of topics I want to talk about, in particular my concern about the lack of concern of this government for eastern Ontario. My remarks are going to be longer than the three or four minutes that remain.

On motion by Mr. Sterling, the debate was adjourned.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I want to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, May 26, we will deal with third reading of Bill 65, the Labour Relations Amendment Act, followed by the budget debate. On Tuesday, May 27, we will continue with the budget debate.

On Wednesday, May 28, we will deal with the interim supply motion, followed by legislation in the following order as time permits: second reading of and committee of the whole House, if needed, on Bill 40, Ontario Loan Act; Bill 98, Foreign Arbitral Awards Act; Bill 79, Municipal Amendment Act; Bill 13, Regional Municipality of Sudbury Statute Law Amendment Act; Bill 11, Rental Housing Protection Act; and in committee of the whole House, Bill 54, Ontario Drug Benefit Act, and Bill 55, Prescription Drug



Cost Regulation Act. That should leave quite a bit of the day remaining.

On Thursday, May 29, in the morning we will deal with private members' public business standing in the names of the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) and the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Knight). In the afternoon we will continue with legislation not completed on Wednesday.

I am informed that the standing committee on social development made a motion this afternoon

that would refer Bill 94, Health Care Accessibility Act, back to the House for consideration. If this is referred to committee of the whole House, it would appear in Orders and Notices later next week. Although the House leaders have not had an opportunity to discuss this eventuality, the government is anxious to bring this forward for continuing discussion on a clause-by-clause basis at the earliest possible time. That might be as early as next Wednesday.

The House adjourned at 6:28 p.m.



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No. 19

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**  
Monday, May 26, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC





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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 26, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## LEGISLATIVE PAGES

**Mr. Speaker:** I ask all members to join me in welcoming the second group of legislative pages to serve in the second session of the 33rd Parliament. Their names and ridings are as follows:

Donna Adam, Renfrew North; Hilary Daboll, Brantford; Carolyn Hannaford, Wentworth North; Talson Henderson, Grey-Bruce; Erica Hiemstra, Durham-York; Paul Hunt, Middlesex; Justin Kelley, Essex South; Heather McCready, Windsor-Riverside; Duff McCutcheon, Algoma-Manitoulin; Bruce Myers, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Jeff Nagge, Waterloo North; Jeffrey Paterson, Windsor-Walkerville;

Rebecca Raposo, Mississauga North; Alison Ritchie, Renfrew South; Peter Sharpe, St. Andrew-St. Patrick; Stefan Szeder, Rainy River; Joanne Thomson, Ottawa South; Allison Tummon, Hastings-Peterborough; Rachel Uytendogaart, Parkdale; Kathleen Wall, Wellington-Dufferin-Peel; Susan Wardell, Huron-Middlesex; Jason Zimmerman, Windsor-Sandwich; and Peter Zuk, Carleton East.

Please join me in welcoming the pages.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### ROLLING THUNDER THEATRE COMPANY

**Mr. Gillies:** Tomorrow at the Legislature an extraordinary theatre company will be performing its original play, *Given Half a Chance*. The Rolling Thunder Theatre Company is a Brantford-based group comprising five people. Two of the performers have cerebral palsy, and a third, who also wrote and directed the play, is blind. Rolling Thunder has performed at schools and service clubs throughout the province to rave reviews.

I know members will find this play a most entertaining and enlightening experience. I am hopeful that all members and their staff will be able to join me in welcoming the Rolling Thunder Theatre Company to the Legislature. The performance will take place tomorrow at

noon in room 230. We do look forward to seeing you there.

## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** I have a statement to make about Ontario health insurance plan premiums. Smoke and mirrors are not only for use by the Tory party on my right, but they also belong to the Liberal government, a party which before the last election promised us the end of premiums; that it would support the reduction of these premiums over the next few years and would ultimately eliminate them. We are now into the second year of that government. By the end of this second year, not one cent less in premiums will be available to anybody in Ontario.

The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) promised that \$15 million would go to premium assistance for the very poorest people in society to help them with their OHIP premiums. That money will not be spent until April 1987, after two years of this government. This is surely just a matter of smoke and mirrors. This is not a Liberal reform government unless it has the New Democratic Party to push it. That is the only way it is reformist. Otherwise, it is fiscally and socially conservative and has already fallen back on its basic promises to the people of Ontario.

## LIBRARY OPENING

**Mr. D. W. Smith:** I am pleased to announce to the House that I was able to participate in the opening of the new library in the town of Forest on May 16. The official opening was made by my colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro). I thank her for her help in obtaining a grant of approximately \$50,000 to help this project along and for her attendance there that day. The library building was built as a replica of the old train stations that used to stand beside the tracks of many localities on the Grand Trunk Railway line. It will be a reminder of our history for many generations to come. I would like personally to congratulate the town of Forest for its successful achievement.

## CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Ms. Fish:** I would like to express my outrage at the manner in which the Minister of Agricul-



ture and Food (Mr. Riddell) has treated the consumers and producers of this province. Last week shocking information was made available about the levels of dioxin in our food, particularly fresh fruits. On Tuesday the minister stated in this House, "We have been testing apples since we heard there could be a dioxin problem."

Mr. Speaker, I do not know about you, but to me that sounds as though there was at least a representative sample tested of the total 300 million apples produced in this province. The minister had a sample tested all right—two apples. How can the minister expect the consumers of this province to trust his government's test results and believe his assurance that our fruits are safe when he has tested only two apples?

The report on which the minister bases this good news says, "The available data base is too small to make any general conclusions regarding average levels of chlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and chlorinated dibenzofurans found in food." In other words, the testers did not think the testing of two apples was sufficient to reassure the consumers either. If the minister has no information he should say so and his government should get the information and get the tests done. The minister's false assurance and this government testing are a sad joke, but the people of Ontario are not laughing.

#### INSURANCE RATES

**Mr. Swart:** The ongoing expression of the philosophical bias against public auto insurance made by the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Kwinter) is probably the main reason Dr. Slater did not recommend insurance plans similar to those in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia and did not quantify the financial and other advantages of the public system. From the minister's answer to me last week, it is becoming more and more clear that he does not want to know the advantages himself and he does not want the people of the province to know them because it would further jeopardize the eroding support for continuation of the private system which is so dear to his heart.

Consequently, I am tabling today a resolution for debate in private members' hour calling on the Ontario government to have a public insurance plan similar to the ones in the western provinces in place and ready for operation in the province by January 1, 1988.

There are six major problems now faced by vehicle owners and drivers in this province: arbitrary cancellation of insurance; all drivers in the household penalized for one driver's record;

discriminatory rates for age, sex and marital status; the growing number of uninsured drivers in Ontario; nonexistent or inadequate no-fault compensation; and excessive premiums and escalating rates generally. While the Slater report, if implemented, will make only a few marginal improvements at great cost, a public insurance plan for the province will eliminate all the problems.

#### PRESENTATION

**Mr. McGuigan:** I notice on the agenda that Ambassador Allan Gotlieb is going to meet the cabinet this afternoon. When the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) was in the riding of Kent-Elgin some weeks ago, he remarked upon the quality of the wine that is being made there by Charal Winery and Vineyards. He asked me if I thought I could find a suitable wine to serve when Allan Gotlieb, the ambassador to Washington, was in Toronto. I am very pleased at this time to present three bottles of beautiful Kent county wine from the winery of Allan and Charlotte Eastman at Blenheim, Ontario.

**Mr. Chairman:** The member for Durham-York for 35 seconds.

#### VEGETABLE PACKING PLANT

**Mr. Stevenson:** I am pleased to report the opening of a new vegetable packing plant near Holland Landing that, along with other producers in the area, will pack produce from Bradford, Keswick and Colbar marshes. This is International Fruit Distributors, which sells under the label Snow Boy. It received funding from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. Unfortunately, this Liberal government has not chosen to come through with a similar program to help other producers and packers in this province.

#### TIME FOR MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

**Mr. Harris:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am not sure why the last statement was 35 seconds. There were six previous statements, with a maximum of 90 seconds, for a total of nine minutes. This is the first time there has not been at least a minute for the seventh statement. I do not understand how that could happen.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will have to consider this in the future. We do have timekeepers. I will certainly check with them.

**2:12 p.m.**



## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

### UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE FUND

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** On October 17, 1985, I had the pleasure of informing the House of this government's decision to establish a university excellence fund, which is providing an extra \$50 million in special operating grants to the universities and related institutions in 1986-87.

At that time, I indicated that \$10 million was being allocated to the faculty renewal component of the fund in 1986-87 to bring new talent into our institutions. I expressed the view at that time that excellence in both teaching and research is largely dependent upon the human resources within our institutions and that a consistent flow of talented new faculty into the system is vital to the institutional quality and adaptability of our institutions.

More recently, my colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) indicated in his budget statement of May 13, 1986, that it was the government's intention to commit sufficient new resources to the multi-year program to support 500 new faculty appointments. Today I have the pleasure to announce that the government has committed multi-year support for the university faculty renewal program and has authorized an expenditure of \$84 million in constant 1986 dollars for the duration of the program.

I want to take this opportunity to provide additional details with respect to this initiative, which should improve the percentage of women faculty in our institutions while at the same time increasing the opportunities for Canadian scholars. The 500 new faculty will be appointed over a five-year period. The ministry foresees the appointment of some 300 faculty during the first two years of the program, 1986-87 and 1987-88; 70 in 1988-89; 70 in 1989-90; and 60 in 1990-91.

Each appointment will be supported for a period of five years and, therefore, program funding will continue until 1994-95. The amount that will be allocated in support of each position will be based on a specific salary level to be determined in consultation with the Ontario Council on University Affairs and the Council of Ontario Universities.

In the first year of the program, faculty renewal funds will be allocated to the universities on the basis of a formula. Each university will be required to submit a faculty renewal plan. The plan will describe the institution's current situation and set out how it intends to use the funds to further the program's goals, particularly the

improvement of the percentage of women faculty, as well as its own plans to pursue specialization and excellence.

Ontario's universities are a vital resource to our current and future generations, but they have suffered deterioration as a result of a decade of chronic underfunding. While we cannot hope to erase the results of this neglect overnight, I strongly believe this multi-year, multimillion-dollar program clearly reflects this government's determination to give our institutions the support they require on a long-term basis.

**Mr. McFadden:** We welcome the announcement by the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) concerning the university excellence fund and a program for faculty renewal. This program is consistent with a program that was announced by the previous government about one year ago.

I would simply make two comments on it. First, the government mentions that the funds will be allocated on the basis of a formula. It would be nice when the minister makes these kinds of announcements if he would provide the members of this House and the universities with at least some idea of what that formula might be.

Second, reference is made in the final paragraph to underfunding. That particular paragraph is increasingly lacking credibility from this government. The fact is that the recent budget and the programs announced by the ministry to date fail entirely to respond to the kinds of issues raised by the Bovey commission.

The ministry itself has failed to provide any detailed response to the recommendations of Bovey and, further to that, on the basis of the actions of the government, there is no indication this government is prepared even to come to grips with the kinds of issues raised by Bovey in relation to the ongoing operating requirements of universities. This announcement goes some distance towards faculty renewal, but it fails to respond to the fundamental needs and requirements of the universities.

**Mr. Allen:** I rise to respond to the statement of the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Any dollars moved in the direction of university faculty renewal at this time, after a decade of increasing lack of younger faculty in the universities, is a welcome move. It is that much more welcome when one notices there is an affirmative action dimension attached to this program.

However, there are some curious aspects to his announcement that I think one has to call attention to. The overall dollars that are announced are said to be \$84 million. The amount



the Bovey commission said was required to do this task was \$155 million over the same period. What is even strikingly more curious is that these dollars are supposed to be spread across the same number of faculty members. If we have half the dollars and the same number of faculty coming into the system, I am not sure whether we are engaging in some kind of slave labour or minimum wage approach to the hiring of these faculty members.

For example, on the back page it refers to these dollars being expended on a salary level to be determined in consultation with the Ontario Council on University Affairs and the Council of Ontario Universities. One wonders what kind of business the government is getting into, intervening in collective agreement arrangements in the salary levels and schedules in the universities.

Finally, what I want to call attention to, which I think is strikingly missing from this document, is that it is all very well to throw these dollars out there to hire new faculty at this time with specific programs and with targeted grants, but this does not say anything about elevating the ongoing operating grants of the universities to keep on paying for that faculty on a year-in, year-out basis. Unless the minister is going to make some announcement about those moneys on a year-in, year-out operating grant basis, it is going to be very difficult for the universities to take up this program and to build in new appointments that are going to cost them big money down the road with no assurances for the funding in the future.

This is a curious announcement. I hope the minister will stand up as soon as he can to clarify the extremely murky nature of this document.

#### TILE DRAINAGE

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I am pleased to be able to inform the members of the Legislature today that Ontario farmers will have access to more money for tile drainage loans this year. My cabinet colleagues have agreed to continue the Ontario tile drainage loan program at eight per cent interest and to increase the maximum loan available from 60 per cent to 75 per cent of the cost of the work or \$20,000 per farmer, whichever is the lesser.

Drainage systems allow farmers to drain fields of excess moisture. Research indicates that tile drainage can boost productivity by 15 per cent to 80 per cent. We felt it was necessary to enhance the tile drainage program to permit farmers facing increased economic pressure to take advantage of the benefits they could derive from improved drainage.

We also wanted to streamline the program to get the money quickly to areas where it is needed. As the members know, municipalities issue debentures to cover the costs of approved projects. The province, in turn, purchases the debentures, and the municipalities lend the proceeds to farmers with approved drainage projects.

To speed program delivery, the province will purchase debentures on a first-come, first-served basis, eliminating the time-consuming process of allocating and monitoring budget amounts to each participating municipality.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I will comment very briefly on the minister's announcement on tile drainage. We are pleased to see an increase of up to 75 per cent, as had been promised in the Liberals' election campaign of a year ago. I believe this brings to three out of 22 the items they have completed in their agricultural platform. Undoubtedly, if we wait for an extended period of time, we may get to number four.

It is a help, but when we see what other governments are doing, it is still not much help for the cash-starved Ontario farmers.

#### GRAPE AND WINE INDUSTRY

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I have received the final report of the Ontario Grape and Wine Industry Task Force, which I would like to table for the information of the members at this time. The report is based on nearly two years of consultation with growers, grower organizations, the processing industry, wineries and government ministries.

The task force was established to analyse the problems and to examine opportunities for Ontario's grape and wine industry in the long term. It was asked to develop ways in which producers, processors and government could work together to enhance the performance and prospects of the industry.

The 139-page report makes 29 recommendations that involve four government ministries. For that reason, I have asked senior staff from the interested ministries to begin meeting today to consider the recommendations. Any action that may be required will be taken first through a committee of deputy ministers and then to the provincial cabinet.

I would like to thank task force chairman Jack Tanner and other members of the task force for their efforts in preparing this report.

**Mr. Partington:** In response to the statement of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, I am pleased to see the report on the Ontario wine and



grape industry. The industry continues to have serious needs, and I hope the government will quickly respond to those needs and to the recommendations in the report.

I thank Dr. Jack Tanner and his committee for their many hours of work in preparing the report.

### FOREST FIRES

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I would like to bring the House up to date on the forest fire situation in Ontario and on some fire prevention measures that have been implemented.

As members may already know, the weather in the north has been unusually warm and dry, even warmer and dryer than in southern Ontario. Combined with an early snow melt, this weather has produced high to extreme forest fire hazard conditions across the north from Quebec to the Manitoba border.

Twenty-three forest fires are currently burning in the province. Eleven of them are not under control. A number of these fires may have been caused by railway work projects. While most of the fires are quite small and there is no threat to any communities, there are two fires of some size. A fire northwest of Red Lake is now approaching 10,000 hectares in size. North of Cochrane another forest fire has already consumed 1,150 hectares. Forest fire crews from less threatened areas, such as the Algonquin region, have been moved into northern Ontario to provide extra support.

Last Friday I declared most of northwestern and north-central Ontario a restricted fire zone until tomorrow. Today, as an added prevention measure, I am extending that restricted fire zone to cover the northern and northeastern parts of the province and I am extending the time to at least Friday, May 30. While this restriction does not limit public travel, it suspends burning permits and prohibits open campfires.

A lot of firefighters have been thrown into action recently and water bombing crews are flying the maximum number of hours. We are dealing with some very hot, fast-spreading fires. Some unit crews working hose lines have had all their equipment and personal belongings destroyed because at some points the flames have been jumping ahead at the rate of 30 metres a minute. There has been plenty of activity. Despite that, I am happy to say there have been no serious injuries.

I would like to add that reports from Terrace Bay, where we had a small but serious blaze last week, indicate that residents are crediting heavy water-bombing crews with hitting the fire early

and keeping it away from the subdivision. Some have even gone so far as to say that if it were not for this quick action, the subdivision that was threatened could easily have been lost. These comments, of course, extend to all those who worked on that fire and the evacuation, local firefighters from Terrace Bay and Schreiber and local police and others.

We can be proud of them all for doing a great job and on very short notice.

**Mr. Harris:** I want to respond to a couple of points in the statement by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). He made quite a highlight of a fire being started by rail crews. I did not hear anything in the statement about the rumour that is rampant in northern Ontario that the fire northwest of Red Lake, one of the significant ones approaching 10,000 hectares in size, was started by Ministry of Natural Resources staff clearing a road. I do not know whether there is anything to that, but the minister might have commented on it since this is what we hear in the north.

We had a similar type of statement from the Minister of Natural Resources on Thursday, talking about the fire update. At that point, the minister mentioned an aircraft that was beached. He took great pains to tell us there were no injuries and everything that was happening with it.

What was not in the statement surprised me. There was nothing in the statement about the helicopter that was leased to the ministry that went down in Sharbot Lake, along with 54 gallons of chemicals and 20 gallons of fuel that went into the lake. When one tries to get any information from the ministry, the only information it gives out is, "It was a naturally occurring virus that was dumped into little Sharbot Lake," which, incidentally, has a fish hatchery on it. When we try to ask questions of the ministry about the effect this would have on the fish hatchery, we do not get any information.

Since the minister appears to be making daily statements on the status of the forest fire situation, which we agree with and appreciate getting, perhaps he would look at his priorities. Maybe the House would be interested in what happened with this naturally occurring virus, 54 gallons down in Sharbot Lake, in a helicopter that was leased to the ministry last week.

### TOURIST SIGNS

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** I would like to inform the honourable members of the government's latest effort to assist Ontario's tourism industry. We



want to make Ontario's tourist attractions more visible; so we are introducing a new policy for tourist signs on Ontario's highways. Our new policy reflects this government's strong commitment to the tourism industry. It is a policy designed to improve the current system by relaxing tourism signing criteria.

In essence, we are coupling tourism with our first-rate Ontario highway system. We are convinced, as is the industry, that we can significantly increase the potential for our province. We want to attract more tourists, be they Canadian, American or visitors from other countries.

Working in close consultation with the tourism industry and my colleague the Minister for Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins), we are announcing that more attractions and facilities now can be signed off provincial highways, in addition to freeways and staged freeways. We underscore this change by reducing the attendance requirements for attractions eligible for signing. Requirements for private and public attractions have also been brought into line. In addition, all qualified attractions can be signed from a distance of 10 kilometres, and up to 30 kilometres in some cases, based on attendance.

The costs of new signing will be recovered through an equitable fee structure.

In tandem with this policy, we are continuing to investigate the use of highway signs in other ways, such as the promotion of tourism in those municipalities where there is a potential to highlight locally known attractions and the creation of more picnic and rest areas, coupled with the upgrading of existing areas in the north and on freeways.

By ensuring that all those using our highways are aware of Ontario's holiday areas, we will contribute to making their experience truly "Ontario—incredible."

**Mr. Speaker:** There seem to be an unusual number of private conversations taking place and it is difficult to hear. Perhaps I might have the attention of all the members.

2:31 p.m.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Andrewes:** My question is to the Minister of Health. Can the minister tell us what plans are in place to deal with the pending health care crisis of Thursday and Friday of this week?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman speaks of a health care crisis. I want to assure him

there is no crisis and that, in fact, there has been a guarantee of emergency services. I can tell the member, if he would like to know what our preparations have been, that they have included contacts with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and with the Ontario Hospital Association in setting up a scheme by which the Ministry of Health can monitor very thoroughly the activity on those two days.

**Mr. Andrewes:** The minister's negotiations to date have failed. We face in this province a pending crisis in health care. I wonder whether the minister, in conjunction with his cabinet colleagues, has considered the merit of appointing a mediator who might effectively deal with this situation, which is something he and his colleagues have failed to do.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentlemen says we have failed. It is true there is no negotiated settlement. We have indicated quite thoroughly that we have made attempts to come to a negotiated settlement, which we have not been able to do.

We will not and cannot consider a manner in which patients' rights will be bartered away in exchange for the release of some patients. We have committed ourselves to ending extra pay in this jurisdiction. We think when there are benefits that are insured, that should be all that is required, and no patient should be required to pay more. That being the case, it seems to me we are always willing to explore ways in which we can make genuine gains in terms of negotiating, or otherwise, an end to paying extra for insured medical services.

I can tell the honourable gentlemen there appears to be no advantage at this time in appointing a mediator, as he would say. I have not received a request in that manner from the OMA.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary.

**Mr. Andrewes:** My point was that the minister has failed in his negotiation. Why does he not let someone else try to succeed where he has failed?

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** In answer to his question—

**Mr. Andrewes:** I have not put the question yet.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** He did.

**Mr. Speaker:** Now is the time.

**Mr. Andrewes:** We have warned repeatedly that the failure of this government to negotiate in good faith would lead to a health care crisis in the



province. We warned them of that, and they are heading headlong into that situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Are you going to place your supplementary?

**Mr. Andrewes:** Is the minister saying that he will not take further initiatives, that he will allow this crisis to build and that he will jeopardize the health care system for people in this province?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** That is not what I said. This minister has always maintained at the highest level his responsibility to ensure that the people of the province are receiving good-quality medical care. The member knows full well there is a guarantee of emergency services during the slowdown on Thursday and Friday. He also knows, as I do, that there is a tremendous bond between physicians and patients with respect to the degree of care required. I do not think he is suggesting that is being jeopardized.

The other thing with which the member prefaced his third or fourth question, that we had bargained in bad faith, is absolutely not right; it is not correct. In fact, we made a very genuine proposal that provided the key for us to deal with the critical issues, and we have received indications that the other side was favourably inclined towards that.

#### GOVERNMENT BUDGETS

**Mr. McCague:** I have a question for the Chairman of Management Board. Can she help us by explaining why the combined budget of the Cabinet Office and Office of the Premier is up by 45 per cent?

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** I would like very much to refer this question to the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** It is my responsibility, and I am happy to relate it to the honourable member. There has been a decrease in the budget of the Office of the Premier of \$700,000, as I am sure he is aware. The budget of the Cabinet Office has increased by \$2.8 million because the Social Development, Resources Development and Justice secretariats, which the previous government had and we got rid of, have been transferred to that office. They originally had a budget of \$3.5 million, and we are now doing it for \$1.2 million; so the member will see there are economies brought to bear there.

If the member would like me to go on with some of our initiatives, I would be happy to explain further. He is probably too embarrassed to ask any more questions about this.

**Mr. McCague:** I had hoped to have a chat with the Chairman of Management Board today, but I see that is not possible.

Now that the Premier has disbanded the policy fields, is it true the policy-making procedures are all in his office and not left with who we think are the appropriate authorities, the civil servants in each ministry?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** The member is clearly wrong. We have strong policy units in all the ministries. The member just has to look at the incredible performance of the ministers of the crown to know who makes the decisions.

**Miss Stephenson:** Unbelievable is the appropriate word.

**Mr. McCague:** In the Cabinet Office—

**Miss Stephenson:** Fantastic. There is no doubt about that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is difficult to hear even though the member is sitting very close.

**Mr. McCague:** As I understand it, the item in the Cabinet Office budget called "services" includes consultants and contract work. Why has the budget for services gone up by 700 per cent in the Cabinet Office?

2:40 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I invite the member to put any questions he has into the Orders and Notices paper. It is all there to be shared with him on any occasion. When he looks at the numbers, he will see there have actually been real savings since the previous administration, when we had a proliferation of ministries and a variety of other things.

There have been some initiatives with respect to office automation. The bottom line is that the phones did not work, but they are working now. There is a special adviser attached to the office who is looking at the disposition of crown corporations. It is not easy when we have a situation such as Suncor, on which we have already wasted more than \$1 billion to try to cover our losses. Some of these things are tough deals. We are dealing with the Urban Transportation Development Corp. and a variety of other things.

I invite the member to examine the budget in detail, because everything we do is open to scrutiny. He will see that we are spending money extremely wisely and well and that we are saving money over the money they wasted over the years.

#### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. Over the weekend, Dr. Earl Myers of the Ontario Medical Association announced the bizarre strategy of advising doctors to keep



patients in hospitals longer than previously was the case. Is it the minister's view that this suggestion by Dr. Myers is right and professional? If that is not his view, what does he intend to do about it under the Health Disciplines Act or any regulations subject to the control of his ministry?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** With respect to the main question and the supplementary question, I must respond to the question in this fashion: I find the advice being given by Dr. Moran and Dr. Myers to be inappropriate for two reasons. First, it intrudes upon the relationship between physician and patient, which is something the physicians of this province say they do not want to see done. Second, it fails to recognize the very difficult requirements that are placed on the people who operate our public hospitals and causes a considerable complication in an efficient and well-run operation.

From that standpoint, I will tell the members what has transpired to this point with respect to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. It has indicated it is willing to look at any events that are reported to it through the auspices of the Ontario Hospital Association or its affiliates in the hospitals. The hospitals themselves have protocols and bylaws, and they have admission and discharge committees or bed utilization committees that review in detail what is going on inside those facilities.

The Ministry of Health will be monitoring quite thoroughly the events taking place and any reported information that comes to our attention with respect to the so-called clogging of the system.

**Mr. Rae:** If the OMA is arguing that the hospitals should be deliberately clogged, and the minister's only response is to say it is inappropriate, I hope he understands that is not the language of the Health Disciplines Act or of the regulations. If he is suggesting the college should have jurisdiction, perhaps he can tell us precisely which section of the regulations is going to be involved, because if the OMA is going to play this kind of game, he had better have enough authority within the college to deal with the situation.

Can the minister tell us specifically which section of the regulations or which section of the act is going to give the college the ability to deal with this flagrant abuse of power within the health care system?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I regret the honourable gentleman did not listen to my answer, which indicated quite specifically that the mandate in

the primary sense will fall on the publicly operated hospitals through the boards of trustees and otherwise. They have protocols and bylaws in place in those institutions. As well, they have in place committees that review bed utilization and otherwise deal with situations where there is inappropriate dealing. I think the gentleman will acknowledge that the first area of concern is at the hospital level. I repeat that I think the advice given by Dr. Moran and Dr. Myers was inappropriate. We have in the publicly operated hospitals and independent hospitals—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Rae:** There is a double standard going on here. If a spokesman for the nurses' aides said they were deliberately going to create a clogging of our hospitals and a misuse of hospital beds, the Minister of Health would be on his feet that day saying what the government was going to do to deal specifically with that kind of abuse. When it comes to the doctors—

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary.

**Mr. Rae:** Which section of the Health Disciplines Act is the minister prepared to look at to deal with an intolerable abuse of power by a group of people within the health care system?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman is being a little loose with what he sees as what this minister might or might not do. First, the registered nursing assistants in this province would not do that. He knows that and he is being hypothetically unruly, if I might say that.

The gentleman should understand full well that, for a very good reason, the administration of the hospitals in this province has been kept at a level independent of the ministry. They run a very good and viable operation. Any problems about administration or dealing with questions of patient concern inside those institutions are dealt with by the mechanisms that the institutions have at hand. Included are the bed utilization committees, in this case the medical advisory committees. The college is quite willing to receive information and to deal with that information as it is received.

**Mr. Rae:** All those committees are headed by doctors.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENTS

**Mr. Rae:** I would like to ask the Premier a question with respect to South Africa and Ontario's involvement. It is true that after a successful labour campaign many Ontario institutions, such as jails and psychiatric hospitals, have stopped the purchase of South African fruit



and juice. Is the Premier aware that the Ontario Hospital Association has not encouraged similar action by Ontario hospitals? In particular, is he aware that there is still widespread purchasing of South African products by Ontario hospitals, which are publicly funded institutions? What steps does he intend to take to ensure that this kind of practice is stopped immediately?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** As the honourable member knows, the hospitals are independent even though they are funded by government. I believe we have taken action in all the agencies that we control directly. I hope there are no deviations from that policy which has gone forward. I do not know how widely that is done through the OHA or, one could argue, the universities, with their cafeterias, and others as well and how far the policy goes.

In a sense the point the member raises is a follow-up to the one he raised last week. I understand what he is saying. With respect to the member's question of last week, I have asked the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) to investigate where our jurisdiction lies and how widespread the practice is. We are trying to get some kind of handle on it. I was not specifically aware of the question the member just raised; perhaps we can make suggestions to the OHA in that regard.

**Mr. Rae:** These are publicly funded institutions. If the government wanted to indicate what could be done with its money, I would have thought it could have indicated that pretty darned clearly.

With respect to South African wine, I am sure the Premier is aware that last year, just before the boycott was announced by the government, a very substantial order was placed by the Ontario government, which order has been honoured. It is possible to buy South African wine right throughout the system, with large signs showing the sections and so on.

I wonder whether the Premier would consider doing one of the following: either take the stuff off the shelves or hold an auction and donate all the money that would be raised by the sale, and that has been spent since the boycott was announced, by making a contribution to the international defence and aid fund for South Africa, to which the federal government has contributed, so we can make a clear statement on behalf of the people of this province that the money will not go to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario but will go to people in South Africa who need it.

2:50 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** As the member knows, when we announced our policy some months ago, we stated that no more orders would be placed. I believe that was the case. I think the member's facts are correct in that there were some outstanding orders. We also said at the time we would sell off gradually the stocks that are there and not replace them.

The member could argue perhaps that we should not sell them off, that we should just let that inventory sit for ever. Now there is the member's new suggestion of having a big sale, publicizing all this and giving the money to another body to distribute in other terms. This government has made donations and grants to other countries, and we have the right to do that. Frankly, I am not sure that having a sale of South African wine, advertising it in the way the member suggests and then contributing that money back to the committee would be the most appropriate way of registering our views on the situation.

**Mr. Rae:** How does it compare with the proposal the Premier has in place right now, which means people have spent nearly \$500,000 on South African products that have gone to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario since the Premier announced his so-called boycott, which in effect has not been a consumer boycott at all?

What steps is the Premier taking to make sure he does not simply continue to make money out of the sale of South African goods in stores that are owned and operated by a corporation that is responsible to the government of this province? If this suggestion is not the right one, why does he not put up one of his own that will ensure he does not profiteer from products from apartheid?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I ask the honourable member, who usually thinks things through, to think through exactly what he is suggesting. He may come to a different conclusion. What he has said is that the LCBO should eat that inventory, just let it sit there for ever and have nothing happen to it. In other words, the taxpayers of Ontario will be punished.

We are not buying any more. That is very clear, and we announced it at the time. We are sitting with I do not know how much inventory. It is being sold off, and those moneys go into the LCBO profits, which go for hospital beds, education, roads, social services and other things in the province.

As the member knows, the LCBO contributes almost \$1 billion to the funding of programs in this province, and that is where the money is used. The money is sitting there. The member



may advocate that we throw away \$500,000 or whatever it is—

**Mr. Rae:** That is not throwing it away. Tell that to Desmond Tutu when he comes here.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** If we own it already—just a minute.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Mr. Davis:** I have a question of the Minister of Education.

**Mr. Martel:** He is in trouble.

**Mr. Davis:** Not yet.

During the examination of Bill 30 in committee last week, it was my understanding that in answer to my question, the minister stated that no community with a single public board secondary school would see that school closed or transferred to the Roman Catholic school board as a result of Bill 30. Is it still the government's intention to ensure that no community will lose its single public board secondary school because of the extension of full funding to the separate school system?

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** As I have said repeatedly throughout the lengthy process of discussing Bill 30, the government views very seriously and very positively the role of the high school in the single-high-school community. I have made it clear to the committee and to the honourable member that it is the policy and the intention of this government that no community in Ontario that today has a public high school will be without that public high school as a result of the extension.

**Mr. Davis:** Future governments can change policy. The minister is quite aware that Ministers of Education come and go in this province.

**Mr. Laughren:** The member has noticed that, has he?

**Mr. Davis:** I have noticed that; so do parties, and the minister had better notice that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Was that your supplementary?

**Mr. Davis:** No, that was not my supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Place it.

**Mr. Davis:** To protect these single-school communities for the people for the future and to remove their anxiety, will it be the minister's intention to put in legislation the phrase "No single-school community will be closed because of separate school funding"? If not, why not?

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** On the subject of reversal of policy, the honourable member knows whereof he speaks, because some months ago the honourable member, speaking for his colleagues, said there should be an automatic exemption from religious education for non-Catholic students in the extended separate school system. Weeks later, the honourable gentleman reversed his feeling entirely. Therefore, I know from recent experience the concern some would have, because the honourable members of the official opposition cannot be relied upon.

Government policy with respect to single-school communities is clearly and precisely as I have stated it repeatedly here in the House, this afternoon and throughout many weeks and months of testimony.

### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** My question is to the Minister of Health. He indicated in answer to an earlier question that he is not concerned and that there is no crisis in the health care system this Thursday and Friday because the doctors have guaranteed emergency services. What are the minister's plans for Cornwall, where the doctors have indicated there will be no emergency services; no services, period?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman is not quite right on the facts of that situation. There is an indication, as I read the same press report, that if there is a picket line at the local hospital, doctors might refuse to cross it. The member would want to assure the people here that this article was as I have said and not that there would be an absolute withdrawal of those emergency services.

In that centre, there is at least a second area for the provision of emergency services at the Hotel Dieu Hospital. I know there are other places available for services, but I am watching that situation closely and will have my ministry's staff look at the provision of service in that area very closely indeed.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** Is the minister telling us, as he did in answer to an earlier question, that the responsibility for protecting the public lies with hospital committees, which are controlled by doctors? In addition, is he saying that he has not even bothered checking out the Cornwall situation and that all he is going by is press reports? What are his contingency plans to protect the consumers of this province?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman is asking some questions about which we spoke earlier today. He knows that we have contingency



cy plans, that we have made contacts with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and that we have in place a thorough monitoring group inside the Ministry of Health. He knows that we have a reporting mechanism through the Ontario Hospital Association and that I am concerned that we keep on top of all those circumstances. He knows all this, and yet he stands and suggests he has no information.

I can tell the honourable gentleman, all other members of this House and the people of the province that we are watching closely what is taking place. What I wanted to do first was to stand and correct the member on something about which he was not being exactly precise, the situation in Cornwall.

### SKILLS TRAINING

**Mr. Jackson:** I have a question for the Treasurer. In his budget of two weeks ago, he said we would be doubling the amount spent on skills training programs to \$100 million. I am sending him a copy of the estimates which the government has produced for the Ministry of Skills Development. Will the Treasurer please be so kind as to look at the very few figures involved and tell me which one represents a doubling of the amount spent for skills training programs for all Ontario citizens?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I look forward to examining the estimates carefully, as I have done in the past. The allocation for the Ministry of Skills Development has been increased substantially. The funding for Futures, that extremely successful program initiated by the honourable minister less than a year ago, is ongoing. The funding for skills training in general, a series of programs with attractive acronyms like TIBI, training in business and industry, and—I cannot quite keep up with those—are all excellent programs, many of them established by our predecessors; we are not admitting that, we are asserting it. The funding for those programs will be doubled. All the funding is not new; the honourable member will be aware of that, having perused the figures as carefully as he has.

3 p.m.

**Mr. Jackson:** I would also like to send over to the Treasurer his 1985-86 estimates, which he can also examine and compare with the document I have just handed him. If he compares them, which I know he will, he will notice that none of the expenditures on skills training has doubled, as he promised in his budget. In fact, the total spending on skills training programs is

actually being reduced by \$18 million; it is not being increased, as he just stated.

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary.

**Mr. Jackson:** Why has the Treasurer decided to reduce spending on skills training programs by \$18 million instead of doubling the skills training programs as he indicated in his budget?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I would like to point out to the honourable member that the ministry total is about \$434 million and, out of that, skills training in general specifically requires \$217,538. We believe we can undertake substantial improvement in our programs at present with that level of funding. Having heard the responses from the minister, the member, I am sure, appreciates that with the minister's drive and initiative and the general acceptance of his new programs, we will accomplish great things during this fiscal year.

### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Swart:** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations on gasoline prices. I remind him that even though he and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) have bemoaned the high prices several times during the past few months, they have not intervened to do a single thing about them and have admitted only in the past few weeks that they have the authority to do so.

Given that the price of gasoline has increased up to eight cents or more in the past few days and given that, according to the press, the minister has stated that the oil companies will be required to justify that, can we conclude that the minister will now bring in legislation either to require that justification or to have the prices rolled back?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The member had a very long question, but it really amounted to one thing: Are we going to bring in legislation to roll back the prices? The answer is no.

**Mr. Swart:** Does the minister recall that by a letter, dated April 24, he denied my three requests for intervention to lower prices? He said in that letter that gas went down to 38 cents per litre. He then went on to say in another place, "I am not yet satisfied that the consumer is paying a fair price for gasoline." Now more than one month later, with prices more than three cents higher—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The answer was no and the supplementary has to flow out of the answer. I am waiting for the supplementary. I hope it is coming.



**Mr. Swart:** It is coming right now. Does the minister not realize that the oil companies manipulate these prices upward as they like? He has demonstrated that they have nothing to fear from him because he has not the will or the courage to intervene. Can he not recognize—

**Mr. Speaker:** Minister, do you not realize?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I do realize, and just for the edification of the member, in Nova Scotia where they do have legislation, they have almost the highest-priced gas in Canada.

**Mr. Runciman:** My question really flows from that of the previous questioner. The minister has not really enlightened the House at all. In the light of these recent, significant price increases, can he indicate what action he is prepared to take to ensure that consumers in this province are not being gouged by the oil companies?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** Members will realize the price of fuel has gone up in the past few days. It is not eight cents. Those eight cents are based on a 33-cent-a-litre price, which is very rare. It is very difficult to find it. There is no question that the price of fuel has gone up and I am very concerned about it. Today I will be contacting Pat Carney, the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and Michel Côté, the federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, to see whether they are making any efforts to do something about it in either of their jurisdictions.

**Mr. Runciman:** This minister was recently conned in a very public manner by the big oil companies with their 37-cent scam. I am pleased he is not having another private tête-à-tête with his oil baron friends. Will the minister today commit himself to a public inquiry to deal with what appears to be nothing less than an obscene ripoff of the province's consumers?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I am not satisfied that it is a public ripoff. I want to find out. Once we find out the facts, we will make a move.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member for Ottawa Centre would like to ask a question.

#### EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

**Ms. Gigantes:** I want to ask a question of the minister responsible for women's issues. Can the minister confirm that his business advisory group on equal pay for work of equal value has been given money and researchers for a summer of yet more studies on equal pay? If so, what does this mean about the government's timetable for

tabling legislation to cover working women in this province?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** Some students have been provided to assist the business advisory committee in some studies it wishes to do. That will have no impact on the timing of the bill.

**Ms. Gigantes:** I am glad to hear it. Will the minister tell us when we will get the bill?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I think in the next session after the summer.

#### LIFE INSURANCE

**Ms. Fish:** I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. Doubtless he will be aware of recent practices of life insurance companies in this province to refuse life insurance coverage to victims of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and to those who have test results suggesting they have been exposed to the disease. What specific steps is the minister taking to protect the consumers of this province and ensure that they can secure life insurance?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I thank the member for that question. I hope members will understand that when a life insurance company grants insurance, it has every right to determine the past medical history of a person. For example, if an applicant has had heart problems, he gets rated.

At present, we have a situation where AIDS, to all intents and purposes, is a fatal disease. Notwithstanding that there are some problems about privacy when they inquire, life insurance companies have a right to find out if someone has AIDS. If a company is going to insure an applicant and finds this person has a fatal disease, it has a right to know that and to rate the person accordingly.

We have been in touch with the insurance industry and we are trying to work out the situation in such a way that an inquiry is not used indiscriminately or abused; however, life insurance companies certainly have a right to find out that information.

**Ms. Fish:** I think what is an abuse is the practice of the life insurance companies to require tests to see whether a person has been exposed—not has the disease, but has been exposed to it. By way of information on that, I note that only three to five per cent of those exposed to the disease ever come down with it and that those exposed go across the broad spectrum of this community.

Particularly in face of the public quotes from London Life that it will turn down coverage for those testing positive as simply being exposed to



this disease, what steps will the minister take to ensure consumer protection?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** We have made sure that there is no indiscriminate testing for AIDS, that it is only done where there is some suspicion that an applicant has had that problem. It is ongoing. I have made known my concerns, which are exactly the concerns expressed by the member, to the insurance companies. We are working on it. I appreciate the question, but it must be understood that this is a very serious problem.

#### PENSION FUNDS

**Mr. McClellan:** I have a question for the Treasurer arising out of an article that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* earlier this month on the issue of pension surpluses. The article read as follows: "The Ontario pension commission has no authority to rule on the question of who owns pension plan surpluses and suggests employees and employers settle their disputes elsewhere," according to Ontario's pension superintendent. By that, she meant in court.

If the best his minister can do by way of pension policy on this issue is to suggest that disputes be settled in court, may I suggest he take the issue back from his Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) and impose a rational policy on him?

3:10 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I am sure the member is aware that the minister has circulated draft legislation and is receiving comments from business, industry, labour unions and perhaps even political groups in this regard. In defence of the comment made by the chairman of the Pension Commission of Ontario, the regulations require the commission to maintain 125 per cent—

Interjection.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Do not give up on it. Those are the regulations that apply.

They must maintain 125 per cent of the money required to completely fulfil the agreed-upon commitments for the pension. If there is more money in there than that, it is not for her to decide, other than as the regulations are at present. As the honourable member knows, there is draft legislation out, which is stimulating a review of the matter.

**Mr. McClellan:** I am encouraged that the review is taking place because the new draft legislation does not clarify this issue at all.

**Mr. Rae:** It does not touch it and the minister knows it.

**Mr. McClellan:** It does not.

My supplementary has to do with the same article, which reads: "Surpluses have arisen for the most part because of inflationary gains and the reduction in pension fund liabilities as a result of large-scale layoffs." Has anybody in the pensions commission brought to the Treasurer's attention that Inco, for example, was able to take \$100 million out of the pension fund as surpluses largely because of the number of people it managed to lay off over the years? Surely the government cannot be serious in allowing this kind of theft to continue.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The honourable member knows that under the present statutes and regulations the pension commission has to maintain 125 per cent of the money that is, by agreement, required to make the necessary payments. I do not want to comment specifically on Inco's position, but I understand that is totally paid by management and that is the agreement that is worked out. Whatever one may think about the disposition, the law permits those withdrawals and that is the way it is currently. The minister is undertaking a review of it, has draft legislation and the community at large is commenting.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Agriculture and Food has a response to a question asked previously by the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay).

#### TOBACCO IMPORTS

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I would like to respond to a question from the member for Timiskaming. In my absence, he asked about the importation of tobacco from South Africa and other countries by Rothmans of Pall Mall.

Bob Allan, vice-president of finance and public relations for Rothmans, stated to ministry staff that his company does not import South African tobacco. For 1984, Statistics Canada reported three million pounds of imports with only 12,000 pounds originating from South Africa. Under the Statistics Act, the federal government will not release any information regarding individuals who import, the destination of imports or the volume. It is classified as confidential information and is not subject to release.

I draw the member's attention to the recent agreement for the marketing of Ontario tobacco. All four domestic manufacturers signed the agreement that the companies will not import tobacco beyond the small amount currently



required for blending purposes, except in the case of a tobacco crop loss.

**Mr. Ramsay:** I would like to bring to the minister's attention a supplementary I made to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) last week. Do we have any regulations in this province whereby we import tobacco that is grown under conditions that are not allowed in Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** We have no jurisdiction over importation of any commodity from other countries, but the federal government does keep a watchful eye on the various chemicals that are used in other countries. They assure us that if chemicals are used which are banned or not registered in this province, they take steps to prevent that commodity from moving into Ontario or into any part of Canada.

#### RELEASE OF PROSTITUTE

**Mr. Sterling:** I have a question of the Solicitor General. Several weeks ago police in Ottawa arrested a woman for prostitution, who admitted she was carrying the acquired immune deficiency syndrome antibodies. It was also known she was a drug addict and depended upon prostitution to support this habit. Police have now lost track of this woman. Can the minister tell me why the Ottawa police released her from custody on May 12?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** I cannot give the member an answer to that. I will take it under advisement. I will be in contact with the chief of the Ottawa police department to try to determine an answer, and shall do so immediately.

**Mr. Sterling:** I am amazed that the minister is not aware of the facts surrounding this particular case because of the very contagious effects this particular virus can have. Will the minister also tell us what steps he is going to take to prevent this kind of thing from happening in the future with other police forces?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** I might remind the member that our connection with municipal forces is in an advisory capacity to the Ontario Police Commission. We do not have direct control over the operation of each municipal force. The appropriate guidelines for the force and the determination in trying to retain such people rest with the board of commissioners of police of the area as well as the chief and his men.

#### ONTARIO HUMANE SOCIETY

**Ms. Bryden:** I also have a question of the Solicitor General. I have received reports that the Ontario Provincial Police are sometimes unable

to deal adequately with complaints of cruelty to farm animals because of the lack of resources and facilities for housing and feeding abused animals.

Will the minister tell the House why he has been steadfastly refusing to meet with officials of the Ontario Humane Society in the past year in view of the fact that the Price Waterhouse study, commissioned by his ministry in 1982, chose the society as the agency most suitable to handle the province's responsibility for enforcing the Criminal Code?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** I thank the member very much for the question. We have not refused to meet with the society. We have met with it on a good number of occasions in the past year. I have met with it, and in response to an earlier question, I made sure I wrote personally to the humane society asking it to come back with us to negotiate and to seek a redress of what it considers its funding problem.

It would be of interest to this House and to the member to know that on Friday, after all these months of negotiations, we had a request for a grant of money to the society. We have asked the society to come in to discuss it, and the request is being evaluated by the staff at the moment.

**Ms. Bryden:** There seems to be some disagreement with the information I have. I understand that only the deputy has met with the society—and it has submitted numerous requests, including a formal application for a grant, although this is a technicality—and that the minister is hiding behind technical excuses rather than sitting down with the society and working out exactly what it needs to carry out this responsibility—

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary.

**Ms. Bryden:** —and what kind of accountability and training requirements he would consider necessary. It is willing to meet those.

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** It is great information that the society is willing to meet because we have made that request on a number of occasions. The specific request has been to give us an indication from its own society as to what it will do to meet the requirements of the Price Waterhouse study, should further funding be available. Its answer appears to be, "Give us the money and we will show you what we can do." In the way of a responsible type of government, we have asked for an indication of what steps it will take first and then the money will be provided.

#### RIVER BANK EROSION

**Mr. Gillies:** My question is of the Minister of Municipal Affairs. On Thursday last I ap-



proached him and his colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) to see what assistance the provincial government might be able to provide for those property owners in my riding of Brantford whose properties are threatened by mud slides.

Has the minister consulted with his staff? Is he able to tell the House now what assistance will be available to these families?

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaître:** I can assure the member that my field office people are monitoring the serious event and that I am aware of the conditions. I have not had a full report yet, but as soon as a detailed report is on my desk, I will respond accordingly.

3:20 p.m.

**Mr. Gillies:** I thank the minister for that. Can he tell me specifically if under the program that exists within the Ministry of Natural Resources, which allows for the acquisition of threatened properties on river banks that are eroding in this way, funding will be made available to the home owners who will not be able to return to their homes in the east end of Brantford?

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaître:** I can assure the member that I will be in touch with the minister to my right, and if land needs to be purchased or expropriated, we will do so. However, I will leave this up the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio).

#### MINIMUM WAGE

**Mr. Mackenzie:** I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Last July the minister told us he hoped to have some increases in the minimum wage ready for the fall. That has not happened. It is a year and a half since the last increase in the minimum wage. Can the minister tell us what has happened that we have not seen an increase and what his plans are?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** The matter of a minimum wage increase is under active review. We have had discussions with people in the trade union movement and with businesses about what might be appropriate levels for an increase in the minimum wage and also about what would be the most appropriate time, the most useful time, to increase the minimum wage so that there is not a disruption of some operations that require notification of minimum wage increases. I expect to have something to say on this matter in the not-too-distant future.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** The minister will also recall that he made sure to point out in his statement last July that one of the problems with our low

minimum wage was that the Tories had not acted for almost three years before the last increase. Can the minister tell me what is different between him and the Tories with the kind of delay we have had in the minimum wage increase? What is he doing about indexing or allowing for some form of automatic increases in the minimum wage?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** We have taken a look in a general sense at the issue of indexation. I am not sure it is necessarily appropriate. While one can make arguments for indexation, one should also keep in mind the relative competitive positions not only of this province but also of other neighbouring provinces and of other jurisdictions in the United States.

I have had an opportunity to discuss these matters with my colleague the Minister of Labour in Quebec. As I said, we will be bringing forward appropriate recommendations in due course.

#### AGRICULTURAL FUNDING

**Mr. Stevenson:** I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Saskatchewan has doubled its agricultural budget this year and now has per capita funding well over double that given to the Ontario farmers. How are Ontario producers going to compete with their friends in Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** Ontario producers have always been able to compete very successfully with the producers in the other provinces, but I have to remind the member that since we formed the government, we have increased the agricultural budget by 39 per cent. I suppose in a way that is a sad commentary on the previous administration, which even failed to recognize that the agricultural industry was an important industry in this province.

**Mr. Stevenson:** The minister's accomplishments are pale when compared to those of his competition. He promised innovative ideas and he promised the doubling of the budget. Where are the ideas and where is the money?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** When a promise was made to double the budget, I believe the time period was the doubling of the budget over the next three years. We have increased it by 39 per cent within 11 months.

We have introduced a number of programs that farmers tell us have meant in many cases the difference between their survival and their exit from the farm. I am speaking of the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program; an enriched beginning farmer assistance program, on which I will be announcing details later; an enriched farm operating credit assistance pro-



gram, which I will be announcing later; and the introduction of a crop expansion program.

We have done numerous things since we formed the government, all of which are going to be very helpful to our farmers.

#### CONDOMINIUM LEGISLATION

**Mr. Philip:** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Shortly after his appointment, the minister was quoted as saying it was not a high priority to bring in a new Condominium Act. Can the minister tell us when the condominium owners across the province can expect the new act?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The member will know that I addressed the Canadian Condominium Institute last Friday night and responded to that. The rewrite of the act is going to be a major one. Although I did not say it was not a high priority, I did say it would be difficult for me to get it into the House with some urgency because of the other high priority items. It is something we are working on in my ministry, and as soon as we can get the drafting done and introduced, we will. I cannot give a time because of the crowded legislative agenda.

**Mr. Philip:** The minister has been in his portfolio now for 11 months. The previous minister had promised a new Condominium Act for at least two years. Does the minister not understand there are major problems in the condominium field and that the act should be addressed and sent to public hearings as soon as possible? When can we expect to have the act before us?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I appreciate the member's concern and I agree that it needs some time. In the hierarchy of things, we cannot get it on the legislative agenda. We will bring it in as soon as we can.

#### HOLSTERED GUNS

**Mr. Sterling:** I have a question for the Solicitor General. The minister will remember that last January two Brinks guards were gunned down during a robbery in Ottawa. Now that he has had the opportunity to reflect on this matter for several months, what is his position with regard to the holstering of security guards' guns and their ability to draw them while picking up or delivering cash?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** The position of our ministry has not changed from that stated before. We have met with representatives of the firm in question and we are continuing to review it, but there is no indication from any of our staff, myself included,

that there is a need to relinquish and provide more freedom in the handling of handguns in this province than exists today.

#### GO TRANSIT

**Mr. Breagh:** I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications concerning the provision of GO rail transit east to Oshawa. The minister knows that whole project has been on hold for the better part of a year. When are we going to see an announcement that will allow the construction of that project to continue?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** The member is well aware that construction east from Pickering is well under way. A number of contracts have recently been let and bridges have recently been opened. We cannot possibly get to Oshawa until we get to Whitby.

**Mr. Breagh:** I would give him a map, but I do not think it would help. We are all embarrassed watching this major construction project lie idle for the better part of a year. When will we see some construction activity on that project?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** I do not know how the gentleman goes back and forth to his home, but I would like to give him a map and perhaps a pass on the GO train. Construction is under way and we intend to open the line to Whitby on schedule in 1988.

#### ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Mr. Jackson:** I wrote to the Minister of Colleges and Universities some months ago about a concern with the Ontario student assistance program and a practice whereby students were being denied filing of their applications with banks unless they had been depositors for a period of up to six months. When I wrote to the minister, he replied that he understood this practice was to put pressure on the federal government to revise its interest structure and to provide a transaction fee on loans negotiated. What has the minister done in his discussions with the federal government to overcome this abusive approach to filing student loans?

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** The short answer to that question is we have not done anything in particular that is going to alleviate the problem in the short term. However, collectively with my colleagues from other provinces, we are having discussions with the Secretary of State to try to deal with a number of these issues and to make certain changes to funding students, particularly



for loans to students. We hope to carry on that exercise and perhaps have some results within six or eight months.

**3:30 p.m.**

**Mr. Jackson:** If the minister has known about the practice, it is not good enough that he has done nothing about it. The minister has responsibility for the students of Ontario. When is he going to resolve this unfair practice, or is he going to sit by and do nothing about it?

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** The problem my friend raises is not the most serious problem students have with respect to funding their post-secondary education. In addition, the problem is created by another level of government.

We are undergoing a fairly comprehensive review of the Ontario student assistance program in view of the fact that debt loads to students have increased substantially over the past number of years. We are considering this rather minor issue within that context. I am not prepared to raise it with the Secretary of State in Ottawa and make a major issue out of a small problem that could be dealt with in context working with my provincial counterparts.

#### PRISON FACILITIES

**Mr. Martel:** I have a question of the Premier. Mr. McDonald at a meeting with him a number of months ago indicated only that there was a vacancy rate in northwestern Ontario for prisons. He forgot to tell the Premier that he would have to expand a number of prisons in the south and continued to give him the idea that we should bring the prisoners from the north to the south.

Is the Premier prepared to change that Tory thinking and to reopen the prison in Burwash, thus making 225 jobs, plus another 225 that will spin off to create a total of 500 jobs and reduce the unemployment rate and the welfare rate?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I know of my colleague's intense interest in this matter. Perhaps he wants to be assured of a secure place after he leaves this Legislature. I am not sure. Wherever there are accommodation problems in this province, we will personally find him a jail in which to reside. I want my honourable friend to know that.

He has put the argument eloquently and passionately, and so often that no one could ever not know what he was talking about. The Minister of Government Services and Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) and a lot of others have been looking seriously at Burwash to try to find some use for it. I do not have the answers today. As the member knows, that place has a strange history. It was opened up and closed

and, in a sense, it has been gutted. It is not as if one could move in immediately with a facility for incarceration of any type.

I do want to thank the member for his devotion to this cause, for his understanding and for his reminding us of the importance of this issue. We are pursuing it, but I do not have an answer for him today.

#### NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** One day last week I was quick to inform the members when we had only 33 questions and supplementaries placed. Today we had 47, which means people were up on their feet 94 times.

#### PETITIONS

##### NATUROPATHY

**Mr. Polsinelli:** I have a petition signed by 100 Ontarians.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

**Mr. Shymko:** I have a similar petition.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

**Mr. Offer:** I have a petition that reads:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:



"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

**Mr. Swart:** I too have a petition in relation to the naturopaths, which reads:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

This is signed by 108 people from my area, and I want to say that I support the petition.

#### COURTHOUSE

**Mr. Morin:** I have before me a petition submitted by the North Bay Historical Society and supported by 720 North Bay residents that the old North Bay courthouse be preserved and saved from demolition.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Gregory:** I have a petition signed by residents of Mississauga East. The wording is:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

**Mrs. Marland:** It is a pleasure for me to submit to the government of Ontario a petition from 200 members of my constituency with their concern about the reduction of the gasoline tax.

#### SUNDAY TRADING

**Mr. Offer:** I have a further petition signed by 16 members of the parish of St. Francis of Assisi

Anglican Church asking that the government of Ontario institute legislation that allows for the closure of businesses on Sunday.

#### ABORTION CLINICS

**Mr. Callahan:** I have a petition signed by 94 residents of my riding:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As involved citizens of Brampton and Bramalea, we support the vigil which was held at Peel Memorial Hospital on May 14, 1986, to protest the loss of life to abortion of hundreds of unborn children at this hospital.

"We understand that Robert Scott, MD, an associate of Henry Morgentaler, has announced his intention to open yet another illegal abortuary in Toronto. We are extremely concerned about the fanatical disregard of the law by the abortionists and urge the government to use every possible mechanism to meet this challenge and ensure that these illegal abortuaries are closed and that the law be upheld."

3:40 p.m.

#### REPORT BY COMMITTEE

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. R. F. Johnston from the standing committee on social development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amount that Persons may charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### SHORELINE PROPERTY ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 43, An Act to amend the Shoreline Property Assistance Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaître:** This bill will make two changes to the Shoreline Property Assistance Act, which was enacted in 1972 to assist owners of shoreline properties damaged by the elements.



The first change will allow municipalities to make loans to eligible property owners for the raising of a building or for the moving to a new location. The second change will allow property owners in areas without municipal organization to apply for loans for the same purposes as owners within the municipality.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Wildman moved first reading of Bill 44, An Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Wildman:** This bill is designed in a way similar to the bill just introduced by the Minister for Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) in that it provides for regulation in unorganized areas, regulation that already applies in municipal areas. This bill specifically regulates motor vehicle salvage and disposal sites located in territories without municipal organization under the Environmental Protection Act. At present, the Municipal Act empowers municipalities to make bylaws regulating these sites, but there is no parallel regulation for territories without municipal organization.

#### NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to standing order 30, the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) has given notice of her dissatisfaction with the answer to a question given by the Solicitor General (Hon. Mr. Keyes), and I am happy to inform the members that this matter will be debated tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### WITHDRAWAL OF BILL 1062

Ms. Bryden moved that the order for second reading of Bill 106, An Act to amend the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Act, be discharged and that the bill be withdrawn.

Motion agreed to.

##### OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE INC. ACT

Mr. McClellan moved, on behalf of Ms. Gigantes, second reading of Bill Pr12, An Act respecting Ottawa Little Theatre Inc.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

##### LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved third reading of Bill 65, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

**Mr. Laughren:** I would like to say a few words. I will be very brief. The standing committee on resources development dealt with this bill between the two sessions in March and April. We travelled to northern Ontario as well as certain parts of southern Ontario and heard from employee representatives through their unions and from employer representatives through their organizations.

There was a wide-ranging debate on the bill and the minister's staff was most helpful during the deliberations. The debate was so thorough that when the committee reassembled to deal with the clause-by-clause stage when the Legislature came back, we had resolved our differences to the degree that we were able to deal with the clause-by-clause stage in one session.

While the bill did not grant this party everything it wanted, it did at least open the door for first-contract arbitration when those disputes get nasty, which is why we are supporting this bill.

**Mr. Gillies:** I would like to commend the committee for the very excellent work it did between sessions. As my friend the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) said, when we came back for the clause-by-clause discussion of the bill, the work was such that I believe it has improved the minister's bill.

The minister knows the concerns our party had about Bill 65; we voted against it on second reading. We remain unconvinced about the efficacy of this type of legislation but, in fairness to all concerned, the bill that will be enacted into law after today is better than the bill that was first introduced some months back.

The minister moved a couple of critical amendments, including one to the wording on the critical access section, subsection 40a(2) of the bill, which improves it. Amendments moved by myself and by the critic for the third party were also accepted. Some of these amendments failed and others passed. We can all take some small degree of pride in the work that was done.

Finally, I commend the chairman of the standing committee on resources development, the member for Nickel Belt, for his usual effective chairing of the committee and for the excellent work that was done.

I remark, as did my friend the member for Nickel Belt, on something that I do not think I have seen here in five and a half years: the fact that we did a very thorough and comprehensive job of the clause-by-clause consideration of this bill in less than one and a half hours. Everybody's views got on the table, everybody's views



were discussed and all the amendments were voted for or against. It was a tremendously effective and efficient example of committee work in this Legislature of which the resources committee should be very proud.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** I have a few comments to make on this bill, but I would be remiss if I did not also sound a bit of a warning to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) on the legislation.

First, it is an important bill. It may be not a major piece of legislation in the view of many in the province, but it deals with one of the most difficult, time-consuming and nastiest situations that can arise in the relationship between labour and management; that is, a first-contract dispute where management has decided it does not want a union and is not going to have a contract if it can help it.

The bill that the government brought in was deficient mainly in the access. Both this party and the trade union movement in Ontario have argued long and hard in the course of the hearings that access to the bill as a right and not as a remedy was absolutely vital if we were to have an effective piece of legislation dealing with first-contract disputes. That was not provided in the original draft of the bill, in clauses 40a(2)(a), (b), (c) and (d), and in my opinion is still not there in open terms.

**3:50 p.m.**

Mention has been made of the amendments we finally arrived at and that there was a lot of hard work and goodwill on the part of all parties in trying to change the bill. Subsection 40a(15), which removes some of the restrictions on the arbitrators, was an effective and necessary change without which it would have been difficult to move with the bill at all. I am a lot less happy with clauses 40a(2)(a) to (d). The change removing the word "frustration" is important. Adding the word "expeditious" at least gives us an opening on the time it may take to resolve a dispute such as this.

However, access is not open. It is a situation that in my opinion, and in this case I hope I am wrong, is going to lead to a number of battles to establish the rules in effect and the precedents before the board. That in itself is not a good thing, I warn the minister, particularly in view of the current difficulties with bad-faith bargaining cases we seem to be having at the board, more of which have surfaced in the past few weeks than in a long time. I do not know whether there is a deliberate change in emphasis in board policy, but I am getting warnings that have started in only the past few weeks that it is more difficult

than ever to deal with bad-faith bargaining charges.

This new bill is slightly better than bad-faith bargaining, but it is going to mean some lengthy battles before the board. There are 50 or 60 cases out in the community where they would like to use it. The discipline of the labour movement itself is going to try to restrict that, but I want to make it very clear that if we find this bill is not working because it is too close to bad-faith bargaining in the access to the legislation, then we are going to have a very unhappy and cynical group of people within the trade union movement, and rightly so.

My hopes are riding on the interpretation and speed with which we can deal with the problems that come before the board. It is an important piece of legislation. It is better than having nothing, as before. I do wish it were more open than it is, but we are willing to give it a try and see what happens with it.

If the minister and the government thought they had the labour movement on their necks before, they will really find it on their necks if after giving it this hope that we can resolve a very difficult collective bargaining situation with a piece of legislation, it is found to be not good enough to resolve those disputes. I hope it is going to work. It is worth that try. I just wish we had been able to get it more open than it is.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Are there any questions or comments?

**Mr. McClellan:** It is a third reading debate; there cannot be questions or comments.

**Mr. Breaugh:** That is why we are here: to remind you of the rules of the House.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Certainly there can be questions and comments. Do any other honourable members wish to participate in the debate? If not, we will hear from the Minister of Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I will be very brief. First, I want to join with my colleagues who have spoken in paying tribute to members from all parties on the standing committee on resources development, who listened patiently to a lot of testimony. A lot of points were made by both employee and employer groups and in the end, working with this minister and this ministry, we have produced a bill which, as it comes out and as it passes into law, is a better bill than the one we first proposed. It is an improved bill.

I acknowledge the differences that still exist between the official opposition and this government and between the third party and this government, but we believe we have made



important and significant changes, particularly on the access issue and, as my friend the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) pointed out, on subsection 40a(15) as well as, I would add, on subsection 17 in the construction section of the bill.

We on the government side are very pleased with the final package. We believe it will provide a very balanced approach that will allow those who are bargaining for a first contract to get on with the job of achieving a successful first contract in the knowledge that if they do not achieve it after moving forward with all the goodwill in the world, they will be able to get the kind of redress the legislation calls for.

We on this side have worked towards that kind of balanced approach. We believe it is now present in Bill 65. In the months to come, as the Ontario Labour Relations Board issues rulings on the key question of access, I look forward to seeing the intent of the government put into law and interpreted through the actions of the OLRB.

Motion agreed to.

#### BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. Brandt:** I welcome this opportunity to participate in the budget debate. I am pleased the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has found the time to remain in the House to hear some of the comments and observations that are going to be made by the members of our party with respect to the budget that was brought down recently.

Let me say at the outset that from my perspective, having listened to the presentation of the budget, following which the first speaker on our side of the House was the former Treasurer, the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson), I have to say how deeply impressed I was with the response she gave to this budget. I certainly recommend it to the Treasurer as a working document he could use as a guideline for the things that should have been in the budget and the direction that should have been taken. I take this opportunity to compliment my colleague because the remarks she made were very well thought out, very precise and very specific. They were some of the very things that were missing in the budget that was presented by the Treasurer.

I call attention to the two major undertakings in this budget, namely, the \$850 million that has been set aside for the capital expansion of our health services, principally our hospitals in this

province, and the \$1-billion high-technology fund that has been discussed at some length, the committee of which is to be chaired by the Premier (Mr. Peterson). Those two amounts supposedly add up very close to \$2 billion in new initiatives on the part of the government.

I guess one could call this a budget that asks for details to be announced later. Interestingly enough, as is the case with so many areas of this budget, for both those very significant, very large and very substantial expenditures—as I said, it is something close to some \$2 billion that is being proposed—we have very sketchy details at best. Even some days after the budget, for the \$850 million that was proposed to be spent for hospital expansion, as an example, we have no idea whether that is over five years or eight years.

When one takes a look at those numbers and relates them to the kinds of investments that have been made in previous years by other governments in this province, they do not relate to an increase in spending. There is no provision for any supplemental or additional funding to be set aside for the expansion of our hospitals.

This concerns me very greatly because one of the commitments made in a very specific and very direct way by the party that is now the government of this province was that if all else failed in terms of the moneys it might have available, it would address its attention to health spending, and it would very significantly increase the amount of money that would be allocated for health purposes. At this time, we have not seen any indication that is going to be the case.

In my own situation, using my own municipality of Sarnia as an example, the community has already raised close to \$4 million for the capital expansion of St. Joseph's Hospital. The exact amount to this time is some \$3.8 million. That money was raised by the community with the specific intent, upon completing its own local requirements for fund-raising, of having the ministry come in with its supplemental funding to provide an additional 150 chronic care beds.

**4 p.m.**

What has happened over the course of the past few days is that the Ministry of Health has thrown another curve at the board of St. Joseph's Hospital and at my community, indicating that part of that \$3.8 million, if one can believe this, was raised from moneys the hospital was able to save in the capital fund and, therefore, those dollars will not be allowed as part of the local participation that is required.



That is absolutely absurd. Those ground rules were never understood to be as I have just outlined them. Once the community had met its commitment and raised the amount of money it was requested to raise, it was then a single question of the ministry coming forward with its level of participation and the balance of the funding in order that the hospital could proceed to develop the expansion that is so desperately and critically needed in my community.

The situation we face in Sarnia in connection with hospital capital spending is one that is a very serious problem right across this province and certainly one that \$850 million, if allocated over five years, is not going to solve. If the allocation period for this \$850 million—and I hope this is not the case—is spread over eight years, then it is an absolutely unacceptable amount to the party of which I am a part. That amount of money is simply not a sufficient commitment to hospital spending. It is not a sufficient commitment to the capital needs of our hospitals and health services in this province. In the light of some of the other things that have happened in the budget, how can the government retain even flat-line health spending for capital purposes when the budget went up so significantly in other areas?

In this budget, there are some \$700 million in new taxes given to the current government as a result of tax increases that were brought in with the previous budget. On top of that and on top of an increased deficit of some \$500 million that took place in the previous budget, we have an overall spending increase in the most recent budget of close to eight per cent. I believe it is in the range of 7.6 per cent, but very close to eight per cent.

It may come as a surprise to some of the citizens of Ontario that this increase in spending on the part of a government is the largest increase in spending of any province in all of Canada, including the federal government. No other government has substantially increased its spending to the extent the current government has.

How can the government increase deficits, increase taxes, increase the amount of spending it is going to be involved with and yet flat-line spending for health services? It makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. I ask the Treasurer and his very able and capable Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) to review that area of the budget to see whether, in the goodness of their hearts, they cannot make some money available for a hard-pressed community that is struggling economically at the moment with a high unemployment rate.

In spite of all that, this community was able to raise close to \$4 million and, at this point, remains able, willing and anxious to participate with the Ministry of Health in a very needed expansion of health services in that very fine community of Sarnia.

I do not ask that in a critical sense. Our community has been waiting for a long number of years in putting together the preplanning requirements and the amounts of money that would be required with respect to fund-raising activities in the community in an attempt to meet all the requirements of the ministry. I hope this most recent question mark that is now hovering about the St. Joseph's expansion relative to the amount of money that has to be raised locally is one that will be resolved by the Minister of Health at the earliest opportunity.

Fundamentally, the minister is a fair-minded individual. I know he is the type of person who, when looking upon a situation such as this, will take the needs of the community into account and will balance them off against all the other pressures he has across the province. When he finally makes the determining decision with respect to where funding goes, he will see the proper direction that I am suggesting to him, namely, that some modest amount of money should be allocated to the community of Sarnia.

I am pleased to see that my colleague and friend the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) is in the House. I am sure he set aside time to be here with us today to listen to the few remarks I want to share with him, the Treasurer and the Minister of Health. I have some concerns about the \$1-billion technology fund set up in the budget because the budget is so extremely vague when it comes to the two largest spending increases in the entire budget.

I have already mentioned hospitals to a certain extent. I want to direct and focus my attention on the technology fund. When the government sets aside \$100 million a year, supposedly over 10 years, surely there must be some direct program it intends to invest that money in. I suggest to the minister that he has before him at this time in his ministry a very successful program that could be beefed up and expanded where additional monies could be put to good use, that is, the technology centres we have across the province. That is one of the success stories, one of a long litany of success stories of the former government, in which the \$100 million or so he has allocated on a yearly basis could be invested in that program in a very profitable and positive way for the people of Ontario.



**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** With all that success, why is the member over there?

**Mr. Brandt:** Because they happened to fudge the realities during the course of the last exercise we had in meeting with the people of Ontario. That, too, shall change; it need be given but an ample period of time.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** We are prepared to accept a 42-year cycle if the member is.

**Mr. Brandt:** There will be no 42-year cycle when the people of Ontario fully understand and appreciate the increases in the Treasurer's most recent budget, which are in addition to what he brought in in his previous budget. He has brought in only two budgets in this province. Both have subjected this province to absolutely horrendous increases in taxation, horrendous increases in overall spending and problems that I can see are very close to the kinds of difficulties, if I may say this in a charitable sense, that this country now faces as a result of irresponsible spending at the federal level in Ottawa. The deficits that were rung up by that government continue to shackle and hold back the progress of our country because of the spending that took place over such a long number of years.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Like 42 years in Ontario?

**Mr. Brandt:** Let me address the 42 years in Ontario. That is an important point to give some attention to. As to the course of the 42 years, at the time the current government took over the direction of this province, it was left with a sound financial and economic base that was second to none anywhere in the country. This province was not only in a good, sound, secure, financial condition when they took over, but it allowed a great deal of manoeuvrability on the part of the Treasurer as the province and the country worked their way out of the very difficult and problematic recession we went through for a number of years.

We have come out of that now, but I can assure the member that it was not the actions of the current government over the course of the past 10 or 11 months that resulted in this province having the lowest unemployment rate of any province in the entire country. Those measures were put in place long before the current government took office. Those measures have allowed this province to continue the economic buoyancy we are taking advantage of at the present time.

That brings me to another point—I will get back to the high-tech fund in a moment—that should be given some attention.

**4:10 p.m.**

During difficult times when governments have problems, when unemployment is high and when there are significant and severe societal problems that have to be addressed, I do not take any exception as a Conservative and as a member of this great party to governments having to raise deficits to ease the burden on the individual citizen in a particular jurisdiction. I do not take exception to that because I believe in the type of economics whereby, during times when the going is rather difficult, the Treasurer can make a conscious decision to invest some additional money through the raising of the deficit he has available to him and can help to ease the plight of people during times of difficulty and economic deprivation.

However, when we have a buoyant economy, when we have revenues moving up and accelerating at one of the highest rates and one of the fastest increases in the history of this province—none of which the Treasurer had anything to do with—when we have a stable economic base in place and when things are going well, that is the time to start to tackle the deficit. That is the very time he has to bring the deficit down to a more realistic number in order to prepare for some difficult days that will surely come ahead again, particularly if we have the current government over there in its present position.

This is very simple, basic economics, and for him to understand, I will speak slowly. Basic economics simply indicates that during good times he has to bring down the deficit, because during bad times he has to increase the deficit. He does not, however, during a time when he has a relatively low unemployment rate, when he has record high revenues coming into his coffers, fail to address the ad valorem question on gasoline taxes and continue to gouge the Ontario public with gasoline taxes that are absolutely absurd in terms of the amount of money he collects on an hour-by-hour basis from the users of gasoline in this province.

When all of those things are going in the favour of the Treasurer, let me tell members what he did in terms of the deficit. He took a look at the deficit and said: "You know something? The people of Ontario, and probably the people of Canada, really do not understand what a deficit is all about." Because there is a little difficulty in the public mind with respect to the problems that deficits can create, the Treasurer made a very conscious decision at that point in looking over his budget. He said: "We are going to spend in



this budget. We are going to be the good guys and we are not going to reduce the deficit.”

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** We did, though.

**Mr. Brandt:** He reduced the deficit by the paltry amount of \$85 million. By creative bookkeeping, the real deficit came down by some \$85 million.

That is totally unacceptable. The deficit for this province should have been down below \$1 billion. I do not say it should have been wiped out in one year and I do not say the whole problem could be overcome even if we had two or three good years of economic growth back to back. However, the reality is that the Treasurer had a tremendous opportunity in this budget to prepare for a rainy day that is inevitably going to occur at some point down the road. Did he prepare for that rainy day? Did he set aside and make provision for a time when the economy may not expand as rapidly as it is doing now? The answer is no, he did not make any provision for that.

Concerning the money he did spend, I hope the Treasurer or perhaps the Minister of Health will clarify the \$850 million and indicate to us once and for all and in very specific, understandable terms whether that \$850 million for capital spending for hospitals is over five years or over eight years, whether it is on top of another capital commitment and, if so, point it out to us in the budget so that we know exactly the amount of money the government is spending.

I indicated I wanted to get back to the \$1-billion technology fund, because this is an opportunity for the government to do some good things. If the government uses this money wisely and judiciously, with thought and sensitivity, this money can be used for a very positive job creation program—if not today, perhaps in the future—for our great province.

What we have to do, quite obviously, to meet the competition of many jurisdictions in the world that are causing the erosion of some of our industrial base is to move into areas of high technology and to be more aggressive in preparing this province for the inevitable competition and challenge that are going to occur in the years ahead. We are not going to be able to do that if we do not prepare now.

Thank goodness we had a government in office for some long number of years that prepared for those kinds of difficulties and challenges and the inevitability of the kind of competition we are going to have in the years ahead. That government established and set in place high-technology centres throughout the entire province, dealing with farm machinery,

mining and resources, computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing, and a whole broad spectrum of high-technology and new manufacturing concepts in which this province can be a world leader in undertaking.

The current minister is a fine chap, whom I like personally, but he has some difficulty on occasion with his vast and important ministry. The reality is that if he will take the \$100 million per year that has been set aside and inject a significant portion of that money into those centres, they will produce very real dividends for this province. They will produce the jobs that are going to be required in the days that follow when our international competition becomes even more intense.

One of the most devastating one-two punches that this province will have to react to as we move into the future is the one-two punch that our international trading partners have available to them, namely, low wages and high technology. The minister knows that to be a fact. He knows that when we look at countries such as Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and even China, with which we are going to be dealing on an increasing basis in the years ahead, those supposedly emerging Third World countries are now heavily industrialized and are in a very real position to continue to move in on some of the markets that have been historically Ontario's markets or Canada's markets.

I will join hands with the minister in attempting to meet that kind of competition and I will not be critical of any moves on the part of the government that I see reflect that kind of concern, because we have to be ready for that competition or the jobs that we are going to have in this province in the days to come will not be the kinds of jobs that will stimulate and challenge the citizens of this province. They will not provide opportunities for our young people, who require that kind of employment to earn an appropriate level of income, and this province will be reduced and decline economically.

I want to touch on a number of areas of the budget. I touched very briefly on the matter of the high-tech fund and also hospital spending. I would also like to talk about a couple of other areas of the budget I think should receive a failing grade in terms of the government's response to the problems of Ontario.

I have raised in this House on a number of occasions the need for at least some kind of program from across the aisle to respond to the difficulties being faced by workers who are being laid off in their mid-years, in their very



productive years of employment, in communities such as Sault Ste. Marie, my own community of Sarnia and many northern communities. The government members really have sat on their hands and provided virtually no financial assistance, no program, nothing in the way of any kind of unique or progressive thinking in order to respond to the needs of these workers.

As an example, when my request for some additional funds for retraining these workers was placed before the Premier, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara), the response I got was: "That is a good idea. We should be helping some of those workers to retrain." We have a retraining program in place now, but the interesting part of that program is that it does not reflect the needs of workers who currently have a trade.

**4:20 p.m.**

I want to re-emphasize the importance of recognizing there are people in some key industries in the work force today who are 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of age, who are being laid off, who do have a trade but are unable to exercise that trade in the employment they are able to find because there are no jobs left in those industries.

What I am asking of the Premier, his colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities and the Treasurer is that some moneys be set aside to help ease some of those workers back into the work force, to provide them with another trade where there is a job available or where jobs are ultimately going to become available in the future. Those are the kinds of programs he should be looking at very carefully with a view towards assisting some of the workers who, through no fault of their own, are thrown back on unemployment insurance in the first instance and, at a somewhat later date and even more critically, are thrown back on welfare if they still cannot find any form of suitable employment.

I bring that program to the attention of the minister and hope he will make a note of it. If he has difficulties with the implementation of the program and if there is any assistance we on this side of the House can give him, we would be happy to so do. We want to work co-operatively with him in bringing in positive programs that will reflect the needs of the workers of this province.

There were a number of promises made in connection with the budget brought in by the Treasurer. In spite of not reducing the deficit, in spite of doing all the other dastardly things he did with respect to tax increases and not addressing

what I feel are some of the real problems in the province, he left a whole long series of things unattended. Yet they were promises made by this government over a long period of time.

When I look at the budget, I see a long litany of broken promises to the people of Ontario. Where is the elimination of OHIP premiums, as an example? Where is the exemption of sales tax on meals costing less than \$4? Yes, it was adjusted upwards from \$1 to \$2 to reflect at least a movement in that direction. I would like to read back some of the speeches the Treasurer made in connection with that terrible tax. I can recall with vivid interest the rhetoric of the current Treasurer when he completely denounced that tax as being regressive and unnecessary in Ontario.

Where is the government's financial commitment to a cleaner environment? Interestingly enough, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) was speaking the other day on television. I received some reports on this, the accuracy of which I cannot speak to only because I did not see the program in full. He was asked what he had done to this point after spending close to 12 months in that ministry. One of his responses was, "I have cleaned up the phosphorus in the lakes." I bring to his attention that he had absolutely nothing to do with cleaning up the phosphorus in the lakes throughout this province and the lakes we share with our American friends to the south of us. The phosphorus reduction program was put in place in this province two decades ago at the very least. It was intensified as a result of improvements in sewage treatment plants by this party when we were the government.

If one reads reports of Lake Erie 10 or 12 years ago, the reports at that time talked about the ultimate demise of Lake Erie. Lake Erie was going to die as a result of being strangled by algae and as a result of phosphate loadings and the difficulties Lake Erie was having. Because literally billions of dollars were spent in environmental control programs by the previous government putting in place improved municipal treatment systems and reducing the phosphate loadings into the Great Lakes, what has happened as a result is that the life of Lake Erie has now rebounded very substantively, fishing is far better than it has been in many decades and there has been a very substantial improvement in the overall environment of that body of water as well as of others.

I take a look at the minister's comments when he talks about the new tough controls he is going to bring in. He has talked about tough controls for



municipalities and tough controls for industry. I do not take exception to that, but as I have said in this House on previous occasions, there should have been some budgetary provision to look after some of the costs related to those tough controls. As an example, municipalities have always had a partnership with the province. When municipalities moved towards a more stringent control program they always had a partnership with the province.

There is no mention of any increase in capital funding on the part of the Ministry of the Environment. There is no indication that it is going to join hands with the province in looking after some of these new, very finite toxic chemicals that we are trying to come to grips with in our environment and that are being discharged on a regular basis, I might add, by municipal sewage treatment plants. There is no commitment whatever to a capital program that will address the real environmental needs of this province.

There is a very substantial difference between the rhetoric on the one side and the action on the other side. At this point, we are dealing with a great deal of rhetoric and a very limited amount of action. We are not getting action backed up with any dollars to indicate the participation of the government in connection with some of these badly needed programs.

It is not enough to say the minister has had some impact on reducing phosphate loadings in the Great Lakes and that has been a major success story of the current government, because that is hogwash. He has not yet moved even an ounce of acid rain out of the system. He has not cut back sulphur dioxide at all. He has taken no action whatever. What he did was step up a commitment made on the part of the previous Minister of the Environment, whom I know well, since it was me. He stepped up that commitment to require an additional 10 per cent out of the system.

A huge press conference was called to tie all this up in a nice new pretty package with a nice red ribbon—the blue ribbon of course being removed. What was said at that time was, “We are going to take action against the major polluters in this province who are spewing out sulphur dioxide.” So far, sulphur dioxide in this province has not been touched by the current government. This government has done absolutely zero about reducing emissions into the atmosphere and into the natural environment. What they have done to this point is talk a good

case. We reduced acid rain further than any other jurisdiction in North America.

**Mr. Philip:** What did you do when it came to putting scrubbers on Hydro furnaces?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin):** Order.

**Mr. Brandt:** The experimental scrubbers that were put in the Lakeview power station—I will try to ignore the interruptions, Mr. Speaker—

**Mrs. Grier:** What scrubbers?

**Mr. Brandt:** The scrubbers that have been constructed there already were put on by the former government.

**Mrs. Grier:** That is a lime injection process; they are not scrubbers.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Brandt:** It is a scrubbing process, my dear. It has exactly the same effect.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order. Will members address their remarks to the chair.

**Mr. McClellan:** Oil-can Harry.

**Mr. Brandt:** One needs some of that to run one's car on from time to time.

When one talks about some of the programs that are being ignored by the current government, one can see that what we have in this budget is the makings of nothing more than a shell game. Some of the moneys have been moved around. I recall a newspaper article I read the other day. I will quote very briefly, if I may, from the *Globe and Mail*. The headline says—and I will show it to you, Mr. Speaker, because I know you have excellent eyes—“Ontario Saved \$3 Million in Wages.”

It is not a bad headline, other than in the context of the present budget—and I am still on the budget, it is interesting to note, “Even when the budget of this operation is considered, along with cuts in the Premier's office, the continued cost of the Premier's and cabinet office budget is 45 per cent higher than a year ago when the Liberals took office and adopted the Tories' spending plan.” That is 45 per cent in one year.

Have members looked at the increase in civil servants? For years there was a struggle on the part of the former government to reduce the numbers of people—

**Miss Stephenson:** Annually.

**Mr. Brandt:** Annually—to reduce the burden on the taxpayer.

**Mr. Haggerty:** Then you hired them through contract.

**Miss Stephenson:** No. You have not looked.



**Mr. Brandt:** Not at all. The object was to reduce the cost of government and to remove government from the backs of people. The former government went through a very difficult period in order to bring some of those things under control rather than let them run rampant and out of control, as was the case under a Liberal government in Ottawa.

**4:30 p.m.**

What has happened? As a result of a new Liberal budget, we have the highest increase in spending of any budget of any political jurisdiction in all of Canada; that is point number one. We have the highest tax increases of any jurisdiction. Yet we have the strongest, most buoyant economy as a direct result of measures that were put in place previously.

Does it make sense to start now to unwind some of those things, that judicious kind of control that was put in place by the previous Treasurer and by others who worked on budgets for years past to keep government spending under control? Does one automatically let the lid on the box spring open and allow the money to flow in a totally irresponsible fashion?

I say no. The people of Ontario will not stand for it, and they do not have to accept it. It is something that will become a little better known as the days and the weeks pass by and people understand in more detail what this current budget is all about.

I wish to thank the members of the assembly for their attention, and I want to close my remarks by repeating what I said at the outset of my comments.

I strongly urge the Treasurer to look at the comments of my colleague the previous Treasurer, who spoke first for our party on this budget and used the very intelligent, sound and principled statements that were made during the course of the remarks she shared with this House. If he will only take into consideration some of the directions suggested by the honourable member from our party, he will find he will have a much better budget to give to the people of Ontario than the one he tabled in this House a few days ago.

**The Acting Speaker:** Are there questions or comments?

**Mr. Philip:** I have some comments on the crocodile tears for the health care system by the previous speaker. If the member is so concerned about the need for more money for hospital beds in this province, why is it that under his government we managed to have such a deplorable state that in the hospital in my riding, the Etobicoke General Hospital, on any given day

there are 50 people in beds who should be in chronic care facilities?

If the member is really concerned about the health care system, why is it that he and his party are doing everything possible to delay the passage of a bill that will save the taxpayers of this province \$50 million in federal subsidies, or cross-payments, to the health care system? That \$50 million could be used to buy a lot of beds in this province. If he is really concerned about the health care system in this province, why is he acting as the mouthpiece for the Ontario Medical Association, which is going to delay people being out of hospitals at the time they should be discharged, thereby driving up the cost to taxpayers, not to mention possible dangers to those who so badly need admittance to those beds?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I might take a moment to respond to three things to which the honourable member referred.

First, I agree with what the member said about the quality of the first speech made on behalf of the official opposition by the critic. I listened to her speech with great attention. There was perhaps a certain misalignment of views between us, which might be expected, but one thing that concerned me was that this leadoff speech by the official critic for the opposition party was attended by only a handful of members of her own party. She very appropriately got a standing ovation at the end of the speech. Because the members were standing, I had a chance to count them; there were 11 out of 51.

**Miss Stephenson:** That was far more than there were for you.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That is true. I regret that.

I want also to say, as the clock ticks away, that the member has made some comments about the level of gasoline taxation in this province. He was a member of the cabinet when the previous government used the application of a 20 per cent ad valorem tax to double the tax on a gallon, as it then was, of gasoline in the years from 1981 to 1985. With reasonable judgement, we stopped that automatic application of tax, and we returned to the Legislature for a specific tax. As a matter of fact, the Legislature decided not to apply all of the tax that would have been appropriate, in my judgement, but it did apply a tax of 8.3 cents a litre. This is the decision of the Legislature, and it is an appropriate decision, particularly after the old ad valorem doubled the tax in only four years.

I also want to refer briefly to the deficit, which was reduced by \$590 million, not the amount the honourable member referred to.



**The Acting Speaker:** Order. The member's time is up.

### ROYAL ASSENT

**The Acting Speaker:** I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to certain bills in his chambers.

**Clerk of the House:** The following are the titles of the bills to which His Honour has assented:

Bill Pr12, An Act respecting Ottawa Little Theatre Inc.

Bill 65, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

### BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

**Mr. Brandt:** I would like to respond briefly to some of the comments that were made, particularly by the member of the third party, who indicated I was pouring out crocodile tears in connection with the hospital expansion.

The point I want to make, and I hope I can say this in such a way as to allow the Treasurer to understand the position I am coming from, is that, first of all, when we increase spending by a very substantial amount of money, then surely, as a priority we would all share in this House, that amount of money should be directed towards an increase in health spending and, more specifically, capital expansion of our hospitals.

I agree entirely with that. When we look at the problems of some of our hospitals in this province, I agree much of those have been brought about because of restraint programs over the years, because we went through a very difficult recession, because dollars were not there in many instances to allow for the expansion of some of those hospitals to take place. But one cannot have it both ways.

**Mr. Philip:** Then you should stop extra billing.

**Mr. Brandt:** Extra billing has nothing whatever to do with the subject I am talking about.

**Mr. Philip:** It has \$50 million a year to do with it. What are you talking about?

**Mr. Brandt:** I want to get to that point. Mr. Speaker, I did not interrupt the member when he was making his points. I am sure he will allow me an opportunity to address the \$50 million in extra billing transfer funds from the federal government, which I will get to in a moment. The only point I want to make is that when a budget goes

up very substantially, then we have to allow for some of that money to be allocated to hospital spending.

Very briefly, on the matter of transfer funds from the federal government, the current government, to buy its way out of a very difficult problem, has already committed more than double that amount of money that it is going to give away. There will not be one cent of that left for capital spending; it will all go into other programs.

**4:40 p.m.**

**Mr. Rowe:** I rise this afternoon to address the Legislature on the the government's 1986 budget. I do so with enthusiasm because I want to reveal to this House how this government is deluding the electorate, the good people of Ontario, in many ways in its budget.

**Hon. Mr. Eakins:** That is not a very nice way to start out.

**Mr. Rowe:** Let the honourable member assess the tone of the speech from the beginning.

As I have said on previous occasions, the budget is a gift-wrapped box with nothing inside. I would like to expand on that, because it is shameful that we should be led to believe this is a budget that combines "social concern and common sense," as the Treasurer stated on May 13, or that the public could be expected to believe the leadership of the Premier will bring about the continuation of the upsurge in investment, job creation and economic growth.

The budget was all gloss with no lasting glow. It failed to keep the promises the Liberals blatantly made to us only a few months ago. In fact, when one looks closely, the gift-wrapped box was indeed empty.

What about the sales tax exemption on meals? The Liberals promised us they would raise the exemption to \$4. They raised it to \$2. So much for that promise. As the Toronto Star said just recently, the exemption is still not enough to cover the cost of both a Big Mac and a Coke.

Let us talk about the hospitality industry. While the hospitality industry is in a very serious way financially with respect to hotels and motels in this great province these days, why would this government not allow the industry a 25 per cent trade discount on licensed purchases of alcohol and beer? I am sure my good friend the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) will know the industry wanted that sort of break in the budget.

While we are on that subject, let us talk about the price of gasoline. It is not very long ago in this House—I believe it was, as my colleague said, a



little more than a year ago; the minister was critic of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation at that time—when he was standing up and expounding on the terrible price of gasoline. How could we attract American tourists to Canada if the price of gasoline were going to continue to be exorbitant? I do not quite see in the budget where the price of gasoline was dropped to encourage those very important visits, which this industry needs.

**Mr. Barlow:** We have to read between the lines.

**Mr. Rowe:** Maybe we should read between the lines; that might be the answer.

What about the denticare program for children and seniors? The Liberals grudgingly gave us a vague statement: "The Minister of Health will be presenting a proposal to extend the range of dental services available to children."

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It was promised by the Tories in 1943.

**Mr. Rowe:** Let us not go back to 1943. I wonder what kind of present fulfilment that is. I am sure the Treasurer is happy in 1986, not in 1943.

What about the promise of the Premier to eliminate Ontario health insurance plan premiums? The budget gave relief to only 35,000 low-income Ontarians, and not for 1986 but for 1987. That promise is currently unfulfilled as well.

If they cannot keep election promises, I suggest the Liberals should not make them. Surely all this does is raise the expectations of the public and then let them down. If the Liberals want to stay in power—and heaven forbid that this should be the case—they must keep their promises. Since they have not done so, can the public believe in them? Will they believe in them? They certainly cannot make a believer out of me.

There is a 19th-century insight into this question. It reads, "When voters in a democracy discover they can vote themselves largess out of the public treasury, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits." The Liberal budget does not fulfil the promises made to the electorate. Next time, will the electorate be taken in by promises? These unfulfilled promises remind me of the Broadway play of the 1970s, *Promises, Promises*, in which frustration was the bottom line.

There is more to this empty gift box than meets the eye, and it should be brought out in the strong light of the Legislature for all to see. Specifically, let us look at the budget's forecast of economic growth for the next year. "Ontario's economy is expected to grow in real terms this

year by 4.2 per cent," the budget says. Where on earth did the Treasurer get that pessimistic figure of 4.2 per cent? We on this side of the Legislature think it is far too low, and we base our estimates on such reliable forecasters as the Conference Board of Canada. That reliable economic growth group states we will grow at 4.9 per cent or better, and its forecast is supported by other equally reputable groups.

Is the Liberal government deliberately downplaying the growth rate? Would the Treasurer do that? If its downplaying is deliberate, what is the Liberal government trying to do? First, is it deceiving the public? Is it not deceiving us all? Understating the growth rate simply means the Liberal government is suddenly going to find itself with millions of excess dollars in revenue unexpectedly. It means that during the next few months the Liberals will have several million dollars of excess money.

What do the members suppose they will do with that excess money? Will they reduce the deficit? Will they meet fully all the election promises of the past year, which were (a) to reduce the sales tax exemption on meals, (b) to introduce a stepped-up program of dental care for children and seniors and (c) to eliminate totally Ontario health insurance plan premiums? Would that not be the responsible way to distribute that excess money?

The Liberal government might be tempted to act that responsibly, but it might have its sights on other goals, goals of self-interest. I leave it to the imagination of the members of this Legislature to reach their own conclusions as to what the goals of self-interest are. A suitable hint might be to ask the question, when is the next election to be called?

This reminds me of my readings of economic forecasting during election years in the United States and Canada. These readings resulted in some conclusions on my own part; truisms, if one would like to call them that. Prior to elections, there are no increases in personal income taxes, corporate income taxes and retail sales taxes. There is no tampering with social programs. There are goodies for education and health care. Is it not coincidental that all these truisms are in the Liberal budget? It is quite a coincidence, I might add.

Let me turn to another area of this gift-wrapped box with very little in it, the current Ontario deficit. The budget indicated that only \$85 million will be chopped off the deficit, which will run to \$1.5 billion in 1986-87. It is commendable that the Liberal government at



least is paying attention to the deficit. I thank the Treasurer for looking at it, but to us, that is about all it was.

Other financial experts in the US and Canada have looked at Ontario's deficit situation closely. As a result of that look, Ontario was downgraded as an investment risk. We lost our triple-A credit rating last October. Why could the budget not have addressed this downgrading and used some of its previously mentioned excess funds to upgrade our rating in world financial markets?

Let me address further areas of this empty gift-wrapped box. How has the government met the problem of the farmers of this province? I am sure my colleague the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) is interested in this. How does the government propose to handle the needs of the hospitals? How does it suggest we look at the ownership of companies, at how educational institutions should be handled and at how public-sector pension plans should be perceived?

First, the farmers: "...the agricultural outlook remains bleak," to quote the Treasurer. He then proceeded to increase the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food by 13.4 per cent. He intends to extend the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program. The budget enriched the farm operating credit assistance program. It has expanded the beginning farmers assistance program. However, it has wound down the farmers in transition program.

The farmers of this province are strapped. They need this aid, and they need it now. To hold off giving them aid now and wait for several months to implement this program can only cause new and additional hardship. It is a hardship the farmers can ill afford. We on this side of the Legislature think it is absolutely absurd.

Next, let us move to the hospitals. "We will provide \$850 million for a major, multi-year hospital capital expansion," the Treasurer announced. "The program will provide for additional acute and chronic care beds and the most pressing improvements to existing hospital and cancer treatment facilities."

We maintain that the \$850 million is really a repackaging of spending programs of the past and that the budget does not add any new moneys to the financially starved Ontario hospitals. With a very close look, we might squeeze \$2 million a year in additional funds. Billions of dollars are needed for the construction and expansion of hospitals in this province. In our opinion, the \$850 million falls short.

**4:50 p.m.**

Perhaps I can be personal and speak specifically about my own riding; I think the situation in Barrie is similar to that around the province. Additional moneys must be forthcoming to the Royal Victoria Hospital and for the building of a new hospital in the community or the results will be frightening.

Our community has had a significant leap in population, particularly in senior citizens, and this population increase demands more chronic care beds, acute care beds and rehabilitation beds. Specifically, in Simcoe county the shortage of chronic care beds will increase to 300 from 200 in the next 10 years. Some 150 acute beds and 200 more rehabilitation beds are required in the same period. Barrie should have received assurances in the budget that it would be included in the \$850 million figure allocated to hospital care. It did not, nor did any community. Barrie and other communities ask, why not?

The budget allows for only a four per cent annual increase in operating funds for hospitals. That is not only disappointing; it is also insulting. There is \$400 million plus for our area with respect to health funding, and we still cannot get a commitment for a long-overdue hospital. How can one quarter of the 220 public hospitals which have deficits in this province hope to continue to provide adequate service to their communities, let alone survive?

My next point is the plan to create share ownership in Ontario companies. I applaud the Treasurer for proposing an employee share ownership plan in which employees would participate directly in the benefits of business growth, but I am concerned. If the Liberal government's logic is correct, then it should have gone further in specifying how the plan would operate and given more incentives to the employer to start up such programs. The employers should be given to understand that such a program was not to be in lieu of wage and pay increases. The budget failed to spell that out.

I now turn to education. The universities, for example, will receive an increase of four per cent from the budget. As in other areas of this budget, it is completely unacceptable. If the Ontario government is sincere in stating our economic future cannot be secured without a strong and vital education system, it should use some of these excess funds to keep the system viable.

One final area I wish to address is the hint of this government that it is considering removal of inflation protection from the pensions of civil servants and teachers.



Overall, the budget has failed, just as the speech from the throne before it, to provide the appropriate climate for Ontario today and tomorrow. It failed to recognize that only an industrial society, free enterprise and the ambition to excel can provide an adequate and fair standard of living for all Ontarians. It took from the concepts of the budgets of the past decade and attempted to build on them, but it failed to recognize the basic truisms of the past and to rework them for the future. If that is the best we can do, then I say pity them and pity us for the next year.

**Mr. McClellan:** I have one comment. The member who spoke previously said the previous government had not closed any hospitals. In case the member for Simcoe Centre (Mr. Rowe) has forgotten, the previous government closed the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital and created a major crisis in the mental health care system of Metropolitan Toronto which has still not been solved.

**Miss Stephenson:** That is debatable.

**Mr. McClellan:** It is not debatable. A thousand pages of evidence were presented before the standing committee on social development when it held hearings on the closure of Lakeshore hospital, arguing that the types of things that have come to pass would come to pass if the government closed the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital.

One of the things that happened was that a program at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre, which is in my constituency, was literally blown to smithereens by the action of the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) when he was Minister of Health and he closed the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital. Queen Street has still not recovered from the damage that was inflicted on it when its patient population increased by about 35 per cent as a result of the closure.

The speaker we just listened to has been seriously misinformed. He is a new member and was not here when the previous government launched its major attack on the health care system of this province through the imposition of bed-patient ratios and through its attempt, sometimes successful, to close hospitals selectively. We are still living with the damage that was inflicted by the previous government, and that is simply part of the historical record of this province.

**Mr. J. M. Johnson:** I do not intend to speak in this debate again, except to ask a question of the member for Simcoe Centre. How does he justify the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan)

taking the position of Minister of Health? Does it not cause him a great deal of grief to find that the questions are coming from the New Democratic Party rather than from the government?

The Minister of Health is here. He is not the least bit concerned about the comments the member for Simcoe Centre made, but the member for Bellwoods felt he had to respond. Having signed the accord, the NDP could at least sit for another year and not become too involved, unless the member is lobbying for the job of Minister of Health.

**Mr. Rowe:** Quite briefly, in response to the member for Bellwoods, let the record show I did not make the statement that we did not close any hospitals. I did not make that statement. I would appreciate it if the record showed that.

**Mr. McLean:** I want to take a brief time to speak on the budget, mainly about how it relates to the riding of Simcoe East, the riding I have the opportunity to represent. On the day the Treasurer delivered his budget, I was enthused to see the galleries almost full and enthused to see the results in the paper the next day.

I want to speak about agriculture and how it affects the riding of Simcoe East and what the budget is doing to help the farmers of the county of Simcoe. I agree with the increase that has been allotted in the budget, but I think the tile drainage program still needs improvements. I would like to see a 75 per cent allotment instead of the present one, but I agree with that.

My colleague spoke the other day about the gasoline tax on commercial vehicles, which has been a concern to me for some time. In my dairy operation, we have a one-ton truck that is used solely for farm purposes. We have to pay tax on the gasoline we use. The farm vehicles are usually hard on gasoline; we get four or five miles to the gallon. It would be a great boost for the farmers to have that tax removed from commercial vehicles.

It is important to note that the agricultural industry in this province needs all the help it can get. I do not think our farmers want loans increased that much. What they want is more money for the product they are producing. I do not think many people would disagree with that philosophy.

**5 p.m.**

Agriculture in Ontario is still the backbone of the province. We have more efficient people running the farms than in any business I know of. I believe help should be given in three areas. One would be a further tax incentive on the taxes that farmers pay. Another, as was mentioned, is farm



fuel. The third is the hydro that farmers are using. Most farms now are very efficient, but they are heavy users of hydro. My hydro bills were about \$1,000 every time we paid them.

There can be some help here for the farmers in this province if the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) will take those three items into consideration. As I said before, it is not always loans they want; it is more for their product and more help to keep their costs down.

Expanding the beginning farmers assistance program is a good policy. I hope the minister will consider the new research and education initiatives and further develop those policies so our farmers will get a better share.

I had the occasion yesterday to speak to a tile drainage operator, who indicated to me that he seems to be getting more work than he had anticipated he would get this year. That sounds good for our agricultural industry. There are farmers who are improving their lands by putting in more tiles. It is a program where, in five years, farmers will recapture the cost of those tile drains. Here in Ontario, with the number of people one farmer feeds, it is amazing when we look at other jurisdiction.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food could further implement some of those programs to make sure we keep the best farmers on the land. Not only that, but they will still be able to go to Earl's Shell and sit down and chat about what took place that day. It is so important for the community that our farms survive and prosper.

I want to speak briefly with regard to health care in Ontario and specifically in the riding of Simcoe East. Over the years, I have been indicating that what we need is more nursing home beds and more geriatric facilities built for those people who need them.

Over the years, the health care system in this province has developed into one of the best anywhere in the world, but I must say that over the past 10 months, that has changed dramatically. It does not matter which profession or person one talks to in the health care system, they all have a great concern at what has taken place over the past 10 months, and rightly so.

I was always a great believer that through negotiations and talking to people with whom one is dealing, regardless of which profession or business it is, most logical people can come to a reasonable consensus. It is unfortunate that did not take place here. More damage has been done to our health care system in the past 10 months than at any time in history. Until 10 months ago,

our health care system in Ontario was getting better day by day and as time progressed.

In the area I represent, we have a very high population of people who are senior citizens. Statistics show it is one of the fastest-growing areas for senior citizens in the province. I believe the new study that has been completed by the district health council will indicate the need we have in that area for hospitals, acute care beds and nursing home facilities.

If people could get out in the community and see our nursing home facilities and senior citizens' complexes, they would be amazed at how great and how nice these facilities are. I remember when my mother was in a nursing home, I was so pleased with the care she received. That has been expanded upon, but I firmly believe we should let private enterprise build these facilities, because when one compares the cost of a day in a nursing home with the cost of a day in a chronic care unit, the type of facility we should build makes plain common sense. Not only that, but the facilities should be built in co-operation with our chronic and acute care facilities, so those people who need the extra care are close to where they may receive it.

I look at the other people in the community, such as the Victorian Order of Nurses, the people who go from home to home under the good program of home care that has been a successful operation within the Simcoe County District Health Unit and the other health units across the province. It gives our senior people the opportunity to stay in their own homes much longer.

It is interesting that the Treasurer speaks about a lot of money for seniors in the budget. I expect there is a lot of money in the budget, but I have not seen where any of it has yet been spent. He seems to be keeping it pretty close to the vest, and yet I have not seen the Treasurer wear a vest too often. So much for health.

I want to say that when the Treasurer was looking at the \$850 million for capital funds, I would have hoped that would be money over and above what was already there. I listened very carefully the other day, and I believe the Treasurer indicated it was over and above. However, when I read the budget and looked at that figure, I was not so sure that it was. One thing is for sure: Time will tell, and when we get the phase 2 approval for the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, I will probably feel that maybe it is over and above.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The Tories promised that five years ago.



**Mr. McLean:** No, they never did. We just finished phase 1 five years ago, and now phase 2 is in the works. We had a commitment from the previous government to complete phase 2, and I am sure the Treasurer will see that the money is allotted to the Minister of Health so he will give the approval for that quickly.

The \$850 million will build a lot of facilities, but I wonder whether we should not be allowing the private sector to build nursing homes for seniors, providing more money for them to build and paying them to look after some of these people who are in need.

**5:10 p.m.**

I would like to speak briefly on the environment. I see the additional funds that have been put into the total budget of the Ministry of the Environment, an increase of about 11.7 per cent, according to the figures.

When the spills bill was proclaimed, it was supposed to be the greatest thing that ever happened. We had some spills in this province not too long ago, and I asked the minister in the House how many charges had been laid in Ontario. To date, I have not received an answer to that question. There was a large spill up in MacTier and a lot of toxic waste went into the lake; there was a spill in Callander and one on Highway 401 at the famous James Snow Parkway.

There was also a spill in the riding of Simcoe East in Washago. Just last week the indication was that everything was fine; the spill was cleaned up and there would be no further problems with the water. Let us not forget that last week we had three inches of rain. People in that area get their drinking water out of the Green River. It so happened that they found there was a lot of oil from that spill coming out of the cracks in the rock and going into the river.

When I heard that, I immediately thought: "Our Minister of the Environment is telling the people in the United States that every waste disposal site there has to be cleaned up and dug to the bottom and every bit of toxic waste there has to be disposed of. Here we have a situation in Ontario where we did have a spill, all our Ministry of the Environment people were there, no charges were laid, and we have oil in the Green River." It is great to talk tough and to act tough, but that is a lot different from acting responsibly and doing what is right.

When we think of the environment and of the amount of polychlorinated biphenyls that are still around, the number of old transformers that are still around, I applaud the Ministry of the

Environment for securing an extra unit that it can get to these communities and get rid of the PCBs that are still sitting around. However, I have not heard of any area they have been to yet to do what they have intended to do with regard to getting rid of the PCBs. When we talk tough about the environment and we talk tough about people having to clean up, the minister not only has to talk tough; he also has to be tough.

The other day I had the opportunity to be in the riding of Simcoe Centre looking at a proposed waste disposal site, because the Premier announced during the election that within one year the Pauzé site in Tiny township would be closed down. Not very long ago the Premier made an announcement that they had until October 1987 to close the site down.

We were looking at the proposed new site on 150 acres of land in the township of Tiny, south of Penetanguishene. I have never seen a better 150 acres of good clay soil, tile drained, which would produce 150 bushels to the acre. It is prime agricultural land. How could our Minister of Agriculture and Food ever approve of the Minister of the Environment proposing to put a disposal landfill site on 150 acres of what I say is class 1 agricultural land? It is beyond me how that could happen.

I see a lot of things happening with this government and the budget. There has been a lot of tough talk. We talk about all the budget allocations, but we do not see anything happening. If we look at the new ventures program, it is \$15,000 per application if one qualifies. One has to have \$15,000 to match it, in my understanding, and one has to have a line of good credit. I would think a person starting in business could very well borrow that amount of money from the bank and not have to go through all the complications of filling out the forms and everything else that goes along with it.

I would like to talk about tourism, which is a large revenue-maker for the province. For every dollar spent on advertising, we receive \$8. That is money well spent; it has made tourism in Ontario what it is today.

The other day I spoke at a seminar on tourism. When we look at the people involved in the tourism business, we see they are very dynamic people. Facilities in this province have improved immensely over the past several years. The accommodation and the grounds and the water around these accommodations are excellent. We can attract a lot of tourists in most areas in this province with our clean water and our great highways.



People from south of the border love to come to the Muskokas or Simcoe East because we have places like the Martyrs' Shrine, where Pope John Paul visited two years ago. We also have the great Trent-Severn waterway system for the boaters and the 30,000 Islands, the greatest body of water anywhere in the province.

As we look at tourism, we all have to be salespeople to make sure that people are made welcome when they come here to spend their money. It is so important that the people and the operators of these resorts make them feel welcome so they feel they would like to return.

Tourism in this province is on the verge of a rapid expansion. With the facilities and attractions we have, people are going to want to come here. I urge the minister to continue promoting tourism rapidly; it is so important for our businesses to receive the dollars.

It was not too long ago—I guess it was before the election in 1981—that I announced the approval of money from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development for a marina complex in the city of Orillia. It was to be a major expansion. At that time it was a \$3-million announcement involving the private sector. We had some problems with the private sector. However, the city was very involved and put its money up front; it was willing to invest its money. We were fortunate at that time to get a \$1.5-million grant to proceed with the waterfront.

The amount of traffic created in our Trent-Severn waterway indicates more facilities like that one are needed. People like to boat for a few hours and they like to be able to relax. We need facilities, such as we have in Orillia now, for those people to be able to pull in and spend some time in other communities.

A surprising number of businesses have funnelled their efforts towards that waterfront because they want to attract those people who come in by boat. We have about 150 boat slips there now, where there were about 30 before. Last year, after it was opened June 22, hardly a weekend went past when every one of those slips was not full. The word on the waterway was of the great facility of the city of Orillia.

The Minister of Tourism and Recreation should continue that route of creating these facilities. I can think of another one in Midland where they have beautiful access to water right at the bottom of the main street. There is room to expand a facility. Boaters could come in to stay and spend some money downtown. I believe that is what the Minister of Tourism and Recreation

wants. He wants these people to come in and have these great facilities and then to see the tourist attractions that are in those communities.

As I said, in Midland we have the Martyrs' Shrine. Millions of people have come to see that. I urge all members here, if they ever get the opportunity, to come to Midland, in the township of Tay, and see Ste. Marie Among the Hurons and the old fort. They can go to Penetanguishene and see the facilities there.

When we are looking at dollars from the budget for tourism, I say to the Treasurer, do not sell them short, because we need every tourist dollar we can get.

**5:20 p.m.**

I want to speak briefly with regard to the money in the budget for women's issues. I see the amount that has been allotted for the next fiscal year. It is within the current rate of inflation; it is only 3.8 per cent. This government was talking about promoting and helping the women in the work force, the women in the community, and 3.8 per cent does not go very far.

The office that is responsible for women's issues has an allotment for 1986-87 of \$10 million. We may not say that we have gone far, but over the past several years, we have made women's issues something of importance in this province. Women feel, "Yes, we are looked at, we are being recognized, and the Treasurer has increased his budget to help that."

However, when we get to child care, that may be another thing. Child care in this province should not be underestimated, because the work force is realizing there have to be more incomes in the family and more money to help the single parent and the family look after children. I have some concerns about that, because when I talk to people involved in day care in the private sector, it appears to me they have some concern with regard to the funding of public sector day care. From where I see it, the private care is the best. It appears to me also that people would like to see more private day care spaces made available. Day care is very important, and I know the Treasurer has mentioned it broadly in his budget. I am sure there is major reform going to take place within day care centres.

I would like to speak briefly on the housing policy of this government. There have been a lot of questions asked in the House with regard to housing. Yes, we are working on a policy; yes, we are going to announce it very soon; but yes, I have to say I have not seen any money allotted in the area I represent for any new housing to take place.



Two years ago we had a convert-to-rent program; it worked very well. In Orillia, an old armouries, a church and an old YMCA have been converted. That was an excellent program; it got an awful lot of extra rental units on the market, and it certainly helped out with housing and the shortage we have had.

Now, we read about what their programs are and the new total of 16,700 additional units to be built this year. Of those, 700 to 800 are rent-geared-to-income units and 9,000 units are supposed to be subsidized to the same extent. When one looks at the 16,700 units that are being proposed and considers the number already approved, I cannot read anywhere that the number approved has been announced in any major speech.

When we are looking at our housing policies, we have to deal with the rent controls that are on them. Not long ago I indicated there is a better way. Some of the people who come into my office are single parents or elderly. Some elderly people never made \$10,000 or \$15,000 in their lives. They are in an apartment with the rent going up every year. They are at the stage now where their cheque does not cover it. I firmly believe we need a policy that subsidizes the needy and our senior citizens who are in need.

There is another way of doing it. I look at the policy in British Columbia. It is a safer program; they subsidize only senior citizens. About \$8.8 million a year goes into that program. It is helping about only 10,000 people. In Ontario, it would be much broader and larger, but I have a real concern for these people on low incomes. With the rents the way they are, I know they cannot afford them.

**Mr. Martel:** Oh God, don't make me sick.

**Mr. McLean:** The only difference between myself and the fellow who just interjected is that I knew what it was like to be poor. I worked for \$2 a day. It was not an eight-hour day either. There were seven in our family and we did not always have food. The member probably never knew what it was like to be poor; so he should not interject when I am talking about these people who are in need.

I think there is a better way than the rent controls we have. I have pretty well finished my comments—

**Mr. Martel:** Your party was in power for 42 years and did nothing about it. Do you want a crying towel?

**Mr. McLean:** I can tell my friend I do not need a crying towel because I earned what I have today and I earned it in the private sector. Until I

got here, I never got a paycheque out of the public purse, such as the member has been drawing for many years.

With those few comments, I will conclude.

**Mr. Martel:** What a load of horse stuff. Tommy Douglas used to talk about horse manure. That is what it was.

**Miss Stephenson:** He used to spread it quite widely.

**Mr. Martel:** He spread it well. I was alluding to a government and a back-bencher from a government that had been in power for 42 years and did not do enough to make sure there was adequate housing, adequate protection and jobs for people in this province. For the member to get up here with a crying towel is enough to make one's stomach sick.

I recall his party being opposed to rent control. It was only in the middle of an election that Bill Davis got the hots for rent control. Prior to that time, he was opposed to it. In fact, he started out fighting an election on his opposition to rent control. When the issue got good, all of a sudden little Billy Davis decided we needed rent control. Those beggars opposed it every inch of the way. As we tried to improve that bill, those beggars, along with the Liberals, fought to prevent the best piece of legislation we could possibly have.

**5:30 p.m.**

They need a crying towel when I see these crocodile tears being cried about people who were poor. It has been a constant fight and it was a constant fight with the Tories to introduce even half-decent minimum wage. They fought minimum wage all along the line. Now they get up here with these crocodile tears. It is enough to make me cry just listening to them. They were impoverished; they were starved to death; they were the only ones who knew what it is like to work. Yet they sat with their party in power for 42 years and did virtually nothing to help the poor of this province.

**Mr. Gregory:** I was listening very carefully to the member for Simcoe East, whose remarks were very intelligent and well thought out.

I somewhat resent the remarks of the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). It is a well-known fact that we Conservatives pulled the New Democratic Party chestnuts out of the fire in the 1975 election. They had promised something they could not deliver and knew it at the time they promised it. In a mood of compassion, the government-elect in 1975 decided to provide rent control with no other motive in mind but to pull



the NDP chestnuts out of the fire, so they would not be in trouble in their own ridings.

The only problem with rent control, as we all know, is that it is not a healthy thing on a permanent basis, and certainly it is counterproductive. We worry over on this side about rent control; not about rent control itself, but about the people who are currently administering it and totally screwing it up.

**Mr. Breagh:** I was not going to get into this high-toned debate, but a response is necessary. The record should show that the 1975 election produced a minority government, and there were some chestnuts pulled out of the fire. A group of Tories managed to retain their seats as members of the cabinet and their limousines and all their perks and privileges. Their little chestnuts were pulled out of that fire.

It is interesting that prior to that time the record is pretty clear. The Conservatives in Ontario hated rent controls and would have nothing to do with them. In the middle of an election campaign they were born again. In a minority government they had to produce them. Now that they are back in opposition, they appear to have lost some of their fervour and zeal.

Member after member in his or her little budget speech seems to get up and give the true feeling of the Conservative Party about rent controls. They do not like them; they would like to get out of them; they want to abandon the tenants of Ontario. That message seems to be coming across clearer and clearer.

**Miss Stephenson:** The member's logic is impeccably bad.

**Mr. Breagh:** More and more members—even the member for York Mills is jumping into the fray now—are opposed to rent controls.

**Miss Stephenson:** I do not understand the member's logic because it is illogical.

**Mr. Breagh:** I understand why they might have some reconsiderations, but it seems to me that to abandon the tenants of Ontario at this moment in history when the Conservatives were the government that got them into such difficult circumstances, when the Conservatives were the government when the supply of rental housing virtually dried up—

**Miss Stephenson:** No one is abandoning anyone.

**Mr. Breagh:** It seems to me the Conservatives are abandoning them, if the member does not mind, at a most critical moment. It is totally inappropriate for the Conservatives to abandon

ship and leave the tenants to their own resources at this time.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I cannot help but comment on the situation in 1975. If the two opposition parties had had their wits about them back then, we could have accomplished all this progressive change 10 years earlier, and we would still be here progressively changing.

I do want to make a comment. The member for Simcoe East referred to child care. I appreciate that because probably in Simcoe East just as in—

**Mr. McClellan:** This is the member who would have been Premier. That was the problem.

**Miss Stephenson:** They were the third party.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This is my time she is using up. That is all right. I am not Premier now either. I am quite satisfied being the measly, parsimonious Treasurer.

I do want to say something about child care in the few seconds that I have. I admire the honourable member for bringing that forward as an important issue and one that is growing in importance in his area and in mine. I should make it clear that the commitment to child care in the budget was not a substantial number of dollars, unless members recall that last October we committed the funding of 10,000 new places. We had hoped those would have gone even more quickly than they did, but on the basis of that 10,000, there has been a commitment of about \$4.5 million. The remainder will be spent during this fiscal year.

In addition, we have committed substantial additional dollars, an amount of approximately \$16 million, for strengthening child care facilities, rural and urban. Even in some Indian reserves, I believe, there have been applications. As well, there is an indication that I, as Treasurer, have been asked by my colleagues to consult with the federal officials; so as we move forward into this very important, new, alternative program and as we strengthen and expand it, there will be federal dollars involved as well.

**Mr. McLean:** If I had some of those comments a little earlier on, perhaps I could have proceeded with better comments. I want to pick up where the Treasurer left off with regard to child care. With the farming community the way it is today, with the help problem, I would hope there would be more money allotted to the rural people in this province. For the husband and wife who both work on the farm and the actions that take place, there should be somebody there to look after the children.



I should mention that the last newsletter I sent out contained a questionnaire asking whether the people would look favourably upon a housing subsidy for the needy in place of universal controls. I got an interesting response. More than 60 per cent of my respondents indicated that is what they would sooner have. That was from more than 1,000 people across my riding. Perhaps it would be different in Toronto, but that is the response I got from the riding of Simcoe East.

When we look at the shortage of housing we have, at the people who are looking for accommodation and the prices being asked, I think there is an alternative. The entrepreneurs and private investors want to make a 10 per cent return on their money, and I see nothing wrong with that. They should have the initiative to be able to go out and build apartments and be able to charge a rent that is reasonable to reclaim what they have invested in their apartments. I believe there are people who need subsidies. We should help the ones who are in need, but those who are not in need should pay the freight.

5:40 p.m.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** It is most enjoyable to participate in such a vivid and interesting debate. I have to comment a bit on what the member for Sudbury East had to say. He made some comments, as he always does. He always has some answers. Sometimes I am rather pleased that all these answers do not actually get into legislation because we would be in deep trouble.

**Mr. Martel:** I have two minutes.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** Yes, I know the member for Sudbury East has two minutes, and I hope he takes his two minutes. He sometimes needs a lot more than that. However, that is a subject for another time.

The Treasurer has had a very good situation handed over to him by the previous government. It is one that brought him windfall revenue from the excellent management of the province by the previous administration. Almost \$3 billion will be found money by the time this fiscal year is over. These are largely blue dollars. They are dollars that were allowed for and managed by the previous administration. The windfall is now in the hands of the Treasurer and it is for him to decide where it can be spent most advantageously in Ontario.

I would like to touch on a few of the areas where these dollars might have been considerably more advantageously spent, particularly whenever we look at situations faced by tourist

operators, farmers and other areas of eastern and northern Ontario.

One area that can be questioned in this government's commitment to tourism is in eastern Ontario. Lancaster, the gateway to and from the east, which happens to be in the riding I very proudly represent, was mentioned during the budget speech as a situation where it would be spending money towards improving the eastern gateway to this province. The very first thing that occurred was the cutting back of one of the best tourist promotion situations we had by cutting off the harvesting of aquatic weeds in Lake St. Francis, immediately adjacent to Lancaster, Summerstown and Glen Walter.

I was in Lancaster yesterday afternoon. The volunteer fire department was celebrating its 35th anniversary of providing volunteer fire services to that community. Person after person came to me and said: "What is this government at Queen's Park doing? It mentions it will be spending money in our town to promote tourism. The very first thing it does is to cut back something we had wanted and were very pleased to have."

In 1984 and 1985, aquatic weeds were harvested in Lake St. Francis, promoting and facilitating the watercraft travelling from Quebec and New York state to the many commercial establishments along the shores of Lake St. Francis. It very much promoted the sport fishing industry. I know all the members of this Legislature are familiar with Lancaster perch. If one is ever in eastern Ontario in the vicinity of Lancaster, we have several restaurants that specialize in serving Lancaster perch, and one will not find a better seafood anywhere in Ontario.

With respect to road signs, one issue concerns signs that should have been up on our highways by now for smaller tourist attractions. Today, the government announced further action on its tourism signage policy. Local tourist councils had been made aware of a new signage policy as early as mid-February. The throne speech on April 22 promised the same thing. The problem is that we have had promises, announcements, declarations and statements for four months now. The government seems to forget we are now in the middle of the tourist season. It is the end of May and tourists are flocking to and through eastern Ontario, and that latter is what concerns me. They are going through eastern Ontario without stopping at some of the very fine tourist facilities we have.



The Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) or the Minister of Tourism and Recreation should realize we are now at that time of year when the people who are travelling through are looking for places to visit and to spend some dollars. There could be no finer place for that than eastern Ontario. As of today, the United States Memorial Day weekend is coming to a close. We have had many American cars travelling our roads. The signs have not improved. Some rhetoric and some symbolism are what we have had from this government to this point.

In the riding I represent, the previous government improved the signs along Highway 401, particularly indicating the tourist facilities at the town of Iroquois. We have an area overlooking the locks and the St. Lawrence Seaway at Iroquois. We take the St. Lawrence Seaway somewhat for granted, but when it was built about 25 years or more ago, it was considered the eighth wonder of the world, whereby engineers diverted water by damming many areas and came up with an electric generating station that can produce up to 10 per cent of the power requirements of Ontario. In so doing, they created considerably more shoreline and improved boating facilities. We have all these facilities in the riding I represent.

The government has promised to improve the signage along the highway, and we are all awaiting with much anxiety the promise it made, both in the speech from the throne and in the budget.

We also have, along the very same seaway, Upper Canada Village and the Thousand Islands. As well as the St. Lawrence Seaway, getting away from the river, we have the ruins at St. Raphaels. We have some historic towns, including Williamstown, which is truly 200 years old and did celebrate its bicentennial in 1984. Of the 14 bicentennial farms across the province, half of them are in my riding. It is the cradle of Ontario, where this great province all began. People migrated to northern, western and southern Ontario from the great riding I so proudly represent.

In my own riding there are two attractions that have lobbied the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. They need the benefits of signs, but to my understanding their attendance still does not meet the new requirements.

One is the Upper Canada Playhouse, which last year attracted 10,000 visitors and requires better signage along the highway. It is live theatre, which is being supported very actively

by the local community in the Morrisburg-Ingleside-Iroquois area. However, the government is still waiting to put up signs to indicate that Upper Canada Playhouse exists and that it is looking for new, more permanent facilities than those it works out of at present.

This government promised additional dollars to eastern Ontario. We are waiting for those dollars to come and improve one of our uppermost industries, that of tourism, one of the cleanest industries we have. The dollars that are left there are left without any strings attached. Let us not forget that.

The other attraction is the Prehistoric World, again in the immediate location. Last year some 20,000 visitors went through this attraction. It also has to be advertised, not only along Highway 401 but also along Highway 2.

Both attractions have the potential to attract many more tourists as well as some of the local people. We have to put our best foot forward and tell the world that they are there at their beck and call at very reasonable cost.

This budget provided a 10 per cent increase in the budget of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. I hope that the signs start going up very soon and that the ministry re-examines its attendance requirements for tourist attractions in eastern Ontario.

The budget situation regarding tourism is more contradictory and confusing. As I mentioned, it is symbolic at best, particularly when we look at the cutback in the weed harvesting program, which was the first thing this government did. The message going out to the people in eastern Ontario is, "We told you we would help you, but we are cutting you off at the pass right off the bat."

The Treasurer said new funds would also be available to boost tourism in the region. We are talking about going outside the immediate region and telling the people in upper New York state, in Quebec, in Toronto and in western Ontario: "You can go to eastern Ontario. You will enjoy yourself. The facilities are there." We are looking for this government to do the promotion that is very badly needed to put us on the map.

I thank the Treasurer for making the remark about tourist dollars. However, the cut of \$27 million in the tourism budget, compared to the 1984-85 budget, goes somewhat against the grain. I am worried about that. I wonder whether tourism will be promoted as it is supposed to be in northern and eastern Ontario, where the dollars will come from and where the cutbacks will occur.



Ottawa and Kingston seem to be doing reasonably well. As a matter of fact, on the tourist side, Ottawa is doing very well. It could be because of the government up there; I do not know. But on the whole, smaller centres are being hurt by this government, which is being somewhat inconsistent when it makes rhetorical statements and then acts in the exact opposite direction.

**5:50 p.m.**

While I believe the upgrading of the travel centre in Lancaster is not only needed but also welcome, it is ironic that the government at the same time has decided to drive cottagers and boaters out of the Lancaster area.

I come back to the weed harvesting, and it is not only the harvesting of weeds that are growing; it is the gathering up of some of the floating islands of dead weeds, fish, eel, etc., which find their way to the shore and get anchored in bays. We have a situation where people who own lovely summer homes, and some people who own all-season homes, along the St. Lawrence River in the area of Lake St. Francis are not even able to open their windows in July and August because of the stench.

This is a major problem, and the weed harvesting program had alleviated it considerably over the past two years. Now we will be going back to a situation where the bays will be filled with dead seaweed and dead eels and the smell will be unbearable. That is the project that has been cut off by this government.

While the Treasurer and the Minister of Tourism and Recreation talk of boosting eastern Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) has stated unequivocally that the weed harvesting, because it was only a temporary project, would be cut off. The former minister advised me, and he advised the present-day minister when he made that statement, that this was not the case.

I must go back to the year 1981, I believe it was, when the harvester was used on a trial basis. It was not used permanently until 1984. After receiving numerous requests from the local residents, I was able to convince the then Minister of Natural Resources, the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) that this should be initiated on a permanent basis, and it was. Therefore, the harvesting of these weeds occurred in both 1984 and 1985.

Because of a certain arrangement that was made by the Liberal Party and its friends on the left, we had a change of government, and the first thing that occurred was the weed harvesting was

very promptly and abruptly discontinued. Three people who would have obtained employment working on that equipment will now be out of work, and the equipment will be sitting idle on the shores of Lake St. Francis. I can assure the Treasurer that every time the boaters or the residents of that area look at that equipment sitting high and dry on the shore, they will remember the promise he made and its breach immediately after.

I want to talk a little about agriculture, which is an area that could have been addressed in a very positive fashion with the almost \$3 billion of found blue moneys by this Treasurer. However, the Treasurer chose to operate in a somewhat shifty, slippery salesman approach.

Going back to a couple of years ago when the Treasurer happened to be on this side of the House, he made numerous statements regarding the plight of agriculture and what he as a member of government would do to fund agriculture properly. We are now in the most critical time that agriculture has ever faced, possibly with the exception of the lowest of the days of the Depression. Agriculture did not fare well in this budget. Three programs received additional funding and were expanded. Of these, two were introduced by the previous government.

This seems to be the clear evidence that this government is not capable of providing the programs our farmers need in an ever-deepening crisis. When I say crisis, the crop planting that has just been completed in rural Ontario in most cases will not cover the operating expenses required to put in those crops, leave alone make a profit. If one takes the time to look in the financial papers to find out the December future grain prices, it is a very depressing scenario indeed.

Over the past year, other provinces have increased agricultural spending massively. In spite of this government's self-congratulation, Ontario has not kept up. What is most antagonizing to our friends in rural Ontario is that they visit their friends in the more urban parts of Ontario, or the people who are not involved in agriculture directly, and everyone else seems to be doing quite well financially. The recession of the early 1980s is over, interest rates are at a bearable point and everyone except those involved directly in agriculture is doing very much better.

I will get back very shortly to what the Treasurer did in this budget to send a signal to rural Ontario not only that he does not really care what is happening but also that his government is not prepared to do anything but bail out situations



for agriculture and that it will not promote confidence and provide rural Ontario residents with a little bit of hope that in the next few years they will get their fair share of the fruits of this great, booming economy that started on the upswing back in 1984 and continues to do so.

Saskatchewan and Alberta have added hundreds of millions in new expenditures for agriculture to keep up with an international trend. Ontario has not. I have suggested on a number of occasions that, in view of the very depressed grain prices, Ontario could be producing a percentage of its own fuel requirements by turning some of the grains into gasohol. This would be a clean-burning octane substitute for what is being used now. This government has not seen fit to even touch on that aspect in the budget. This would have provided rural Ontario with some hope and confidence that we would be channelling grain into nonfood products, thereby diversifying agriculture and providing some incentive to try to keep going in times when it is very difficult just to make ends meet and one is not covering all of one's expenses. No, the Treasurer did not see fit to do anything such as that.

Real estate values are in free fall and no end is in sight.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Is that so in Cornwall?

**Mr. Villeneuve:** Yes, and I believe they may be that way around St. George.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** No, they are going up.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** Real estate values are going up around St. George? I would like to make sure Hansard has recorded that. These words may come back to haunt the member, because those who are buying are not those who earn their living from agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** You may be right there. A lot of doctors are moving out of Toronto and buying the best farms.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** I must again remind the Treasurer that whenever farmers do not have any prospect of covering their cash costs, let alone their total costs of operation, they are not in the mood to expand their operations. That is the problem in rural Ontario right now, and this budget did not address that at all. The problem of providing confidence did not occur.

As a matter of fact, members may recall I brought in a private member's bill which has been on the Orders and Notices paper since last December. It was only a small item, but it would have given the rural community the confidence that the Treasurer might have recognized they

were in trouble. All we were asking for was the removal of the tax of 8.3 cents a litre on gas and 9.9 cents a litre on diesel fuel that is used in farm licensed commercial vehicles. Lo and behold, who was one of the people to vote against it? It was the Treasurer himself, the farmer from St. George, the man who says real estate values are rising but then admits they are rising because of nonfarming people purchasing land. That will do nothing but make this a reality and ensure it continues in that fashion.

This government worries about preserving farm land but totally forgets about the farm families who are out there trying to earn a living and make ends meet. If we do not save the farmer, who cares about the land?

**6 p.m.**

I must also remind the Treasurer what happens in our sister province, which my riding happens to be right alongside. As the Treasurer well knows, Quebec is the eastern limit of my riding. Quebec, with a Liberal government, I might add, has \$514 million for less than 48,000 farmers in its province. Here in Ontario, we have considerably more farmers and considerably less money to service them. It is a difficult thing to explain when the same gentleman who is now Treasurer sat on this side of the House and said on many occasions that he would double the agricultural budget.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** We have gone only 40 per cent in the first year.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** It went up by 13.4 per cent in the past budget, when there was \$2.3 billion of recognized increased income and likely more than \$3 billion when it is all cut and dried. The Treasurer had the most golden opportunity to do it of any Treasurer in the past 20 years, and the man from St. George overlooked it.

My colleague touched on the spills bill a moment ago. It is very symbolic legislation at best. It tries to let the urban area of Ontario get the notion that this government is doing something about the environment. When I say symbolic, that is being somewhat generous.

**Mr. Martel:** Was that not a Tory bill?

**Mr. Villeneuve:** Yes, and the reason third reading did not occur was that it did not make a lot of sense. However, the government, with the assistance of its friends on the left, thought it might be good politically. What it did was increase the cost of liability to farmers, and it made it look good on paper. That is exactly what it is, and we are still waiting to find out how many people have been charged who let spills



occur or who owned the product that was spilled. No one really knows.

Another thorny issue in rural Ontario is the length of time it takes for an individual who wants to upgrade his drivers' licence to an A or B licence. As members know and as I have just described, farming in Ontario is far from profitable. Many farm wives want to drive school buses on a part-time or full-time basis. For these ladies to upgrade to a B licence from what is probably a standard D or G licence or whatever, they are now taking appointments in Cornwall for September. Winchester is trying to pick up some of the spillover; it is booking into late July. A number of others are in the same situation. This government says it wants to help. For goodness' sake, at least it should bring in some staff that can handle these applications.

We have seniors who, once they have reached 80 years of age, have to go for an annual road test. We have a number of young people who are going to be licensed for the first time; they do not always pass the test on the first go round, so they have to go back. It is sheer nonsense to have farmers' wives who want to improve their family income by driving a school bus on a part-time or full-time basis having to wait until September. That means those ladies will not know whether they have jobs. They will not know whether they have been upgraded to a B licence. This government sits idly by. We made statements on two occasions in this House regarding this situation. The newspapers are now catching on to it.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Why did your party not fix it when it had a chance?

**Mr. Villeneuve:** It has just happened. I have quotes. It has never been this serious before. The photo on the licence is slowing down the process considerably. The government has not addressed the problem; it has overlooked it totally, and it is almost a shame.

**Mr. McLean:** It is a shame.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** I am being kind.

I must touch on the fuel tax rebate before I finish. It was a new program where again a signal or a message could have been sent to rural Ontario by this government and by this Treasurer. Literally, it would have cost them nothing.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** They are getting it all tax-free now.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** That is not the case; they pay tax on farm licensed commercial vehicles. All farm-produced goods have to wind up on the highway. Rural Ontario produces goods, and

they have to be moved to the great parts of Ontario that are urbanized, such as this city and others.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Montreal.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** And Montreal, of course.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Quebec's gasoline taxes are much higher than ours.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** Quebec does its share for agriculture.

Again, I must say this budget did not give any clear message to the people of Ontario in agriculture who are desperate at this stage of the game. The Treasurer went as far as reinstating the seven per cent sales tax on heavy trucks. What mode of transportation moves farm produce from where it is grown, where it is produced, to its eventual markets? It is all done in trucks.

For example, the cost of haulage to the dairy farmers, who are not in quite as bad shape as the other segments of agriculture, is based on a formula that covers the expenditures faced by the milk haulers. A seven per cent increase in the cost of a bulk milk truck will simply mean that the hauling costs to dairy farmers—and these trucks are written off in about two years—will rise by four or five per cent. Four or five per cent here, four or five per cent there.

In the red meat industry, animals go to market primarily in cattle trucks and wind up in cold storage vehicles. Trucking brings all our food from the farm to the city, and everything will be up by seven per cent, thanks to this budget.

I could go on with a number of other very appalling situations that came from a government and in particular from a Treasurer who knows better but who did not have the intestinal fortitude to try to convince his cabinet colleagues that agriculture needed a little bit of special attention.

I am not simply talking about people who are in financial difficulty. I am talking about sending a message to the most basic industry in this province; the industry that has three per cent of the population producing for 100 per cent plus another 50 per cent of its production being exported. That is how important agriculture is to this province. This government is letting it go down the tube without even addressing the problem.

I look forward to the Treasurer correcting the errors of his ways and some of the sins of omission in this budget. I hope he will do that and address the areas I touched on that affect this province and my riding in particular.



6:10 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I want to make one comment without repeating arguments made previously. The honourable member referred to the tourism industry. He and I agree about its importance in eastern Ontario certainly but also right across the whole province. I am prepared to predict to him that we will have the best year in our history as far as visits from around the world and from the United States are concerned because of the careful planning made by my colleague the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins). We will have the best year in history, bar none.

More specifically, I also want to say that his comparison of the dollars committed to tourism this year as compared to last year struck me rather personally until I thought about it and looked up the figures. The thing that makes a certain disparity that might concern the member and myself was the extraordinarily large commitment to Wintario payments during 1985 as compared to 1986.

We went back to the standard allocation of about \$15 million plus the continuing allocation this year. Last year, for some reason, the commitment to Wintario payments was extraordinarily large. I had a feeling it might have been because the Conservative government was trying to hang on to a political position that it realized was eroding very rapidly. I do not want to attribute motives in this House, because that is not allowed under the rules. In fact, by comparison, the budget for actual support of the tourism industry is better this year than it was last.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** Of course, the Treasurer spoke with tongue in cheek about tourism. We know full well that with the hijacking of aircraft, with the explosions that have occurred on aircraft and with the differential between the American dollar and the Canadian dollar, we will have a good tourist year, in spite of what the government has done to things in my riding.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** If spending money will help, we are helping.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** Spending money will assist, but not the kind of symbolic gestures that are made. The Treasurer makes the point of mentioning the town of Lancaster, and that is the very first one that was axed. It is beyond this member's understanding and comprehension.

Regarding Wintario funds, there are some small, rural Ontario towns—the largest one I represent has a population of slightly more than 3,000—where Wintario funds have been very well spent. I see some ball diamonds that would

not be there, and some curling clubs and arenas. I live next to some towns that do have such benefits that came from Wintario projects. They are most welcome.

If the Treasurer is insinuating that this was money poorly spent, he should think again. Those dollars have a ripple effect in rural Ontario; they go through the community and they are very welcome. If the Treasurer thinks he is going to make some political brownie points, which his government seems to be always looking for, he had better not forget about small-town, rural Ontario and Wintario.

**Mr. Jackson:** I know the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) laments the fact that I was present in the House earlier to ask him a question, but I also know his enduring patience will prevail this afternoon as I share with him many of the concerns expressed by the people of Burlington South. It is important that the member for Burlington South, speaking on behalf of his constituents, share those concerns directly with the Treasurer in the House today.

As all members of this Legislature are fully aware, I share the great privilege of representing the city of Burlington with the member from Halton-Burlington (Mr. Knight). As I see this government embark on its many promises and commitments, I am sometimes fearful that it has failed to recognize the needs of the city of Burlington. I sometimes wonder whether the Treasurer is getting any feedback, whether he is listening in the House or from his caucus member directly, on the needs of our community.

The people of Burlington South were not thrilled by this budget document; neither were they extremely upset. In the main, they are rather cold towards this budget and merely very disappointed that it fell short of what it could have done. They looked to this budget as an indication of what this new government could do for the people of Ontario.

For some, this was to be the budget that proved we had a new government with vision and understanding of what the brave new world would be for Ontario. They believed the Liberal propaganda machine that had been cranked up prior to the days leading up to the budget announcement, which said this was a government with courage and conviction, one that would embark on a path that was clearly defined with coherent and cohesive sets of policies for this new age. They looked to this government, with a year of experience, to set out clearly how it was different from the previous government,



with a definite spending plan that showed a vigour and responsiveness to their needs.

They were disappointed to see none of this in the budget. They were disappointed in the Treasurer, who had all these years of experience in the House, having represented his community in opposition as a back-bencher, as the leader of his party and now as the Treasurer. He and he alone had one of the best perspectives in all of Ontario to take an objective look at what the governments in past days had done and had not done, yet nowhere in the document do we see the evidence of those years of thoughtful representation and thoughtful observation.

What do we see in this document? We see that spending went up in almost every ministry without defining the goals. For the most part, it is simply throwing new money into old programs. Perhaps the Treasurer is telling us that most of the programs of the previous government were good programs. If that is the case, I thank him for that observation and concurrence that the previous government's programs in large part were meeting the needs of Ontario.

The citizens in my community were disappointed that this government, for all its rhetoric and promises, did not come to grips with the changing world that is around it. Many others, knowing the government is receiving more than \$2 billion in additional income courtesy of the previous government's stewardship of the economy, expected it to show its responsibility and make a determined effort to bring down the provincial deficit.

Burlington is a city with a very large small-business sector. Statistics will probably show that there are more small-business persons per capita in Halton region than in any other region in the province. These are the people who are driving our economic growth. They know that the boom years cannot be expected to continue indefinitely, and they believe that when times are good, one saves for the leaner times.

Those who did business through the recession know that good times are not guaranteed for ever. One does not suddenly expand based on one good year if it requires continuous good years to maintain that expansion. If one does that, once the lean years hit, the business will go under. With more than \$2 billion in windfall tax dollars, the citizens fully expected to see the deficit whittled down significantly. They know one does not just spend the money one gets and set up a new baseline of expenditures and expectations that cannot be maintained if growth slows or stops.

In the budget document, it says the government will "target the areas that will encourage continued growth and give the business people the climate in which to do business so that we can continue to generate the wealth in this province that will enable us to maintain those who are less fortunate and need our help at a level a compassionate society such as ours knows is necessary."

Clearly the Treasurer has indicated his understanding that there are long-term commitments to maintain in any budget. But do we see that in his fiscal policies? We are disappointed that this government does not recognize its responsibility in handling our public money. To increase expenditures at double the rate of inflation almost across the board without making any significant dent in the deficit is not the way responsible governments handle the inevitable ups and downs of any given economy.

Overall, given the expectations this government has raised and given the opportunity it had to make a forceful move to show its understanding of its role and responsibilities, the government, through its budget, has demonstrated its inability to do any more than meet the challenges of the future with the practices of the past but without the understanding of the needs for management of finances for the future.

In that sense, this budget is very much like the first time one orders chopped steak at a restaurant: one builds in all those expectations but still ends up with hamburger. It is a disappointment but, with the benefit of hindsight, it is something one should have known right from the beginning.

**6:20 p.m.**

Last year at about this time the members of the third party, behind the piano-playing abilities of the present Premier (Mr. Peterson), were regaling people throughout the province with one of the most successful cover versions of the Poynter Sisters' big hit, *Jump For My Love*. It was so successful that a whole new group and a whole opposition party in this province were able to dance across the floor to the beat and continue dancing for several months.

Today there is a new song. I understand the government whip is very interested in what she should be playing at caucus meetings. Today there is a new song climbing the charts. Already we are hearing the Sons of the Social Pioneers, the wonderful New Democratic Party, doing a follow-up version of—and she is no relation, I assure you—Janet Jackson's new, big hit, *What Have You Done for Me Lately*?



It is a song almost the whole province can sing, especially those in need of retraining and skills development. This government's program for employment, particularly related to retraining and skills development, seems very haphazard, to say the least.

The budget is said to be based on sound, fiscal management. Certainly, the Treasurer has a very well established reputation as a man who is careful with our money. I read the budget spending plans for the Ministry of Skills Development with great interest because he is careful. He is so careful that in the budget, he is not going to give our young people any more money this year than he did last year. However, he says he is going to give it back to them in estimates.

Today, I asked the Treasurer a question and I showed him the differential. There is an \$18-million difference between last year's estimates and this year's estimates with respect to moneys targeted for skills development. That is a shortfall of \$18 million. Yet in this House earlier today, the Treasurer made specific reference to the fact that he had seen an increase from his government in this area. Perhaps the Treasurer will go back to the books and have a re-examination and come clean with the House on which junior minister or which member of his staff made this error.

This budget of sound fiscal management promises to double the allocation for skills training to \$100 million from \$50 million. Yet, as I said, these estimates show no such increase. If we believe this budget, the 120,000 young people out of work in our province are also out of luck in terms of having promises made to them last year for an extra \$25 million carried out. Perhaps one of the skills the Treasurer wants them to develop is the skill of taking anything a government says with a grain of salt.

In Burlington, as the local member of the Legislative Assembly, I have helped with the establishment of a new youth employment centre for some of our young people who, because of being burned by the system or by a lack of many of the necessary skills to go job hunting, are in need of assistance. The centre's director, Cathy Thomas, works daily with these young people, with assistance and support from the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, small-business persons, the guidance offices of all our local high schools and the Burlington Young Men's Christian Association. I am sure they are asking questions about what they can believe from this budget, based on the dollar amounts fixed for skills development and skills training.

It is not just young people who are affected and asking questions. We know there are many older workers, women and members of minority groups, who also need immediate attention. They need skills training or retraining to regain their spot in whatever economic future is held for Ontario.

In this House, we have heard the litany of the laid-off workers from Algoma Steel, the iron ore workers in Wawa, Canada Smelting, International Harvester and various other companies; the list goes on and on. These people were led to believe they would be receiving an extra \$50 million from this budget. However, the estimates for the Ministry of Skills Development say they will not get that money. That money could be used to help many people in northern Ontario and many other groups, who are going to find they are out of employment, to be retrained and seek meaningful employment. Maybe they will get it, and then again, maybe they will not. Even in the budget, the best they could have hoped for was a program, the details of which were to follow.

The details in estimates seem to be that there is no additional money. There is actually a forecast drop in allocation, as I referred to earlier, of \$18 million. Maybe in this case the budget will prove correct and there will be an extra \$50 million for them in time. The problem is that many of them need retraining now. They need to know what kinds of programs will be available for them now, while the companies are making plans to shut down. They need more than "details to follow."

It is an excellent exercise in public relations to space out one's announcements, dress up old programs, put new titles on them and then take credit for them, but when people are in need of help, it is no comfort to be part of a public relations exercise. If the money is going to be provided, then the government should tell the workers in this province. Why should those who need help have to wait for an otherwise slow news day so that members across the floor can reannounce plans to help them? Why can we not make headway for people instead of headlines for this government?

Speaking of headlines, I would like to talk about the environment. The people of Burlington care about our environment especially. They know about water quality because they are situated right on beautiful Lake Ontario. What have they seen in this budget? Spending \$5 million to do more tests is all well and good, but the people of Burlington would like to have seen some more initiatives and some money towards



cleaning it up instead of only studying it all the time.

Burlington is a community that expects environmental action, not merely continued studies. When the throne speech proudly stated there would be more money for an increase of about 60 per cent in testing, we would have expected there would have been a 60 per cent increase in the quality of our water. That would have been far more appropriate, and there should have been a long-term program for this government to explain exactly how we could achieve that. Testing the water to death is not going to improve the health of the people drinking it. We expect action and commitment from this government in the environment field, and we were shocked and disappointed that there was only \$5 million allocated in this area.

I should not forget to mention that there was a further \$15 million in new environmental programming. However, that belongs to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), who, being unable to handle the doctors' problems, has been asked to handle their laundry. Now we have a case of environmental initiatives and statements in the budget being so embarrassingly slight in the panel for the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) that the Treasurer has transferred this political credit to a minister who continues the decline as a priority for this so-called new government, for its leader and for its cabinet.

In looking at health care in Burlington, one looks immediately to the fact that Halton is the second-lowest area in the province for the availability of chronic care beds. We are at less than half the provincial average, and we need 90 new chronic care beds immediately. We needed them when they were promised to us last April, and they were promised to us by a previous government. We have waited more than a year, and still we have nothing but words. However,

and I see the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health is with us in the House, we did get our computerized axial tomography scanner, although the citizens had to raise all the money to pay for it.

We will presume for the moment that somewhere in the \$170 million a year for hospitals, the needs of Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital for more beds will be addressed this year. The hospital staff, its foundation and doctors and the community have recently raised \$4.5 million. They would appreciate some sign from this government that it is going to support the local hospital with its operating budget.

We have a long-standing infrastructure of senior citizen support in our community: programs such as Helping Hands, Meals on Wheels, Tele-Touch (seniors) and others. The burden on these institutions is increasing, yet we have no clear direction from this government.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Might I draw the member's attention to the clock?

**Mr. Jackson:** I have 30 seconds.

I have to make reference to a particular constituent, a young person by the name of Amy Elizabeth Jackson, who had a specific request for the Treasurer. In his previous budget, he removed the tax on car seats for children. When Amy Elizabeth was here during the throne speech, she looked with great anticipation to get some indication from the Treasurer that he would remove the tax on disposable diapers. On behalf of all the children in this province and their parents, we had hoped the Treasurer would have considered removing that tax as it is a necessity for the children in this province.

On motion by Mr. Jackson, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



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# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**  
Tuesday, May 27, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC





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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 27, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

**Mr. Eves:** In the gallery today there is a group of public health nurses from the riding of Parry Sound. These nurses are asking for wage parity with registered nurses in hospitals, nursing homes and other publicly funded institutions. They are just as qualified, and in some respects more qualified, than registered nurses in hospitals; yet they earn much less. In fact, the Muskoka-Parry Sound public health nurses are the second-lowest-paid nurses in the entire province.

In their bid for wage parity and mandatory binding arbitration, they have approached the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and they have made a presentation to the Pay Equity Commission as well. They have received no constructive responses from these ministers.

On June 12, 1985, during a demonstration of public health nurses at Queen's Park, the Minister of Labour said he favoured compulsory arbitration for public health nurses. When the Muskoka-Parry Sound public health nurses wrote to the minister recently, however, he referred this case to the Minister of Health, refusing to live up to his commitment as minister to the public health nurses across the province.

The public health nurses of Muskoka-Parry Sound have been without a contract since September. They have a right to be heard, and I ask that some of these ministers take the time at least to hear the public health nurses.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I am glad we finally have the Tories on side on that one too.

### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I began work with the Children's Aid Society County of Essex as a social worker 11 years ago. At that time, there was constant frustration. Many of the children who needed mental health services had to go outside our community for that assistance.

Eleven years later, very little has changed for the children in need in Essex county.

A survey conducted between April 1, 1983, and October 31, 1984, by the Children's Services Council in our area stated that 176 children under the age of 18 had to go outside the Windsor-Essex community for mental health services, while 114 were placed in our community. This situation is absolutely disgraceful.

Since the time the report was filed and made public in our area, at least three more children have committed suicide; yet an application for four emergency crisis mental health beds has been neglected. It has not been followed up by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. There was a commitment last August by the ministry to negotiate these beds, but funding has since been refused. While this government neglects this problem, as did the previous government, children in our region go unserved.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I ask that the government consider this very serious problem.

### PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

**Mr. Epp:** Members of this House will recall that the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Nixon) announced on December 16, 1985, the government's adoption of eight of the 53 recommendations contained in the Taxing Matters report first tabled in the House on November 8, 1985.

This report, prepared under my direction, put forward a program for the reform of property assessment and taxation in Ontario. I am pleased to advise the House that, in accordance with the minister's statement of December 16, a revised assessment program policy manual is now available. The revised manual includes new information pertaining to internal inspection procedures by assessors, assistance to taxpayers in filing appeals and improvements to residential properties which are exempt from assessment and taxation.

Further, the cost of the manual has been reduced from \$50 to \$20 for all municipalities, public libraries and educational institutions in Ontario.



Finally, I have the pleasure of advising members that review of the remaining recommendations in the Taxing Matters report is well under way and will be reported to this House later this year. Members who wish a manual and the update for those manuals may contact my office, and I will be glad to forward them.

#### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr. Baetz:** His Alice-in-Wonderland speech to the Ontario Hospital Association by the sometimes Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) has eastern Ontario residents repeating along with Alice "is puzzlement." The minister tells us we will get 608 more acute and chronic care beds. Note he said 608, not 606 or 610, but 608. That is long-range precision planning, one of the big weapons of this government. But wait a moment, Alice. Although the minister said precisely 608 beds, he added, "Well, not precisely, but approximately."

This very specific—or is it very approximate?—program will begin in an equally approximately precise or precisely approximate fashion. According to the minister, it will begin within five years—or is it within eight years?—or, anyway, within the next few years. One takes one's choice. The completion schedule paves the way into pure puzzlement. He says it will be in the era of the 1990s—no, the mid-1990s or perhaps by the end of the century.

This plan boasts an eight per cent increase of beds, but during this time the minister says the general population will increase by 17 per cent. The elderly population which, as we all know, requires more hospital care on a per capita basis, will increase by a whopping 53 per cent; yet the minister says the eight per cent increase in the number of beds will result in more beds per capita.

Mr. Speaker, is puzzlement.

#### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Foulds:** Last week the federal Conservative government finally released some of its studies on free trade. Many of the studies remain secret; many of those released were heavily censored. What was released had an eerie ring to it. What was censored, the effects on the auto pact, could have a devastating effect on Ontario's economy; yet the Premier (Mr. Peterson) talks a good game while failing to protect Ontario's workers.

The federal studies predict short-term employment adjustments for workers and enhanced profitability for corporations, should Canada

sign a free trade deal with the United States. Do members know what short-term employment adjustments mean in plain English? The people in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Terrace Bay, Wawa, and now Timmins know what that means. To these people, short-term employment adjustments mean permanent layoffs, plant closures and leaving their homes, all in the interest of enhanced profitability for their former employers.

The studies I cite predict adjustments for 27,000 textile workers and 17,000 workers in the manufacturing sector. Most of those are in Ontario, but the Premier has yet to say what he will do to protect Ontario's workers. The Premier must tell the people of Ontario the specific steps he will take to protect their jobs and their economic security. Through its silence on free trade, the government cannot fail the whole provincial economy the way it has failed northern Ontario's economy.

#### BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

**Mr. Knight:** I wish to congratulate the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) on his announcement last Friday that the rebuilding of the James Snow Parkway bridge will begin as soon as possible and the replacement will be as the bridge was originally designed.

As members know, the bridge over Highway 401 at the interchange just east of Milton collapsed from intense heat, which melted and twisted the support beams, following the crash of a tanker truck on March 25. One person died in the accident.

Members may not be aware that since its construction the value of the interchange to the citizens of Milton has come from reasons beyond that originally intended. It has become a vital eastern link to Highway 401 for the many Milton citizens who commute daily to Toronto. As Milton develops its industrial and residential areas, the interchange will act as an important access from Highway 401 to attract and service these developments. I know these facts persuaded the ministry that the interchange was a necessary part of the roadway network in the region of Halton and the town of Milton.

I further applaud the minister for his intention to open the westbound exit and eastbound entrance ramps while construction is under way.

#### VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

**Mr. Pollock:** A group of people who were concerned that there was no training centre for



, volunteer firemen decided to do something about it. They formed a board of directors and solicited help from the general public and service clubs. They received a good response from the Norwood Lions Club and the local citizens. The board purchased property and built roads, and on Sunday, May 25, it dedicated its own official flag and kicked off a fund-raising campaign. The centre is called the Eastern Ontario Volunteer Firefighters' Training Centre and is located in Norwood.

They would welcome financial support from the Ontario government. I feel this is a needed and worthwhile project and it will be a place where volunteer firefighters can receive real, practical training and experience.

#### VISITOR

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to call the attention of the House to a visitor at the table, Eddie Bright, Clerk of the House of Representatives of The Gambia, who is visiting us this week under the attachment program of the Office of the Clerk.

2:13 p.m.

#### STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

##### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** There is no issue more important to this government than the health and safety of workers. Since my first days in office, I have made clear my commitment to protect the health and physical wellbeing of the working men and women of Ontario.

General and nonspecific allegations which threaten to leave a cloud over the administration of the Occupational Health and Safety Act have been made recently. These allegations of policy and administrative deficiencies, as well as misconduct which might impair the proper enforcement of the act, have been made by some inspectors employed in the occupational health and safety division. Even though these allegations are vague and unspecified, they are serious charges.

The government will not allow its commitment to the workers of this province to be compromised. The government cannot and will not allow the cloud to linger. After consultation with senior government and ministry officials, we have determined that an independent, external review is the best method to investigate all the matters contained in and arising from these allegations.

The terms of reference of the review are as follows: With the assistance in full of all ministries, agencies, boards and commissions, the review will inquire into the allegations; evaluate the program performance, including the efficiency and effectiveness of the occupational health and safety program; inquire into the performance of officials in the administration of the Occupational Health and Safety Act; and determine whether there exists any evidence of misconduct by those officials that warrants further investigation; conduct a management audit of the occupational health and safety program; study any other related matters deemed necessary; and recommend changes to implement the findings.

As a result of our deliberations, I am pleased to inform the Legislature that my deputy minister will retain Geoffrey McKenzie, senior managing partner with the Coopers and Lybrand Consulting Group, to undertake the detailed management review and program audit. Mr. McKenzie has broad consulting experience centred on the areas of policy development, planning and organization.

In addition, John Laskin, a Toronto lawyer, will conduct a thorough investigation into the allegations of misconduct. Mr. Laskin has served as counsel to a number of royal commissions and inquiries, including the Royal Commission on Matters of Health and Safety Arising from the Use of Asbestos in Ontario. They will submit their report to my deputy minister on or before September 15, and the findings of the review will be made public.

Because of the nature of this matter, I want to inform the Legislature that before making a final determination, we reviewed our approach with Cliff Pilkey, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, Bob White, president of the United Auto Workers Union of Canada, and Leo Gerard, director of the United Steelworkers of America. These three leaders of organized labour have fully endorsed the method and approach of this comprehensive, external review.

I said at the beginning of the statement that no issue is more important than the health and safety of workers. I know all members of the assembly share that view. That is why the decision to have this independent, external review and the appointment of these individuals is timely and appropriate. I am determined to create an environment in which the public will have full confidence in the administration of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The actions I have announced today will ensure the best system of



occupational health and safety for the working men and women of Ontario.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to draw to the attention of the members of the Legislature the attendance of a former member of the Legislature, Ted Bounsall. I might point out to the Minister of Labour that if he continues to get all this good press back in his home town, Ted will be back here very soon.

**Mr. Gillies:** First, with respect to the statement just made by the Minister of Labour, he will find that we in the opposition welcome a thorough and, we hope, impartial inquiry into the operations of his ministry. The allegations that have been made in recent days by various people in the public press regarding the operations of his ministry are serious and do have to be dealt with. I am glad the minister has undertaken a review.

However, I hope this review and inquiry will extend into several things he has not referred to in the statement. I hope the review will include a review of statements and announcements made by this minister to this House and whether the administration of the ministry is carrying through with the directions that are supposedly being set by the minister. The minister and members of the opposition have had disagreements on such matters as the reissuing of orders, if orders are being reissued since the minister made his statement in November. In some cases, we happen to believe they are. He says they are not. This should be part of the review.

I also suggest the minister may want to have this inquiry examine the larger issue. To me, the larger issue is the very disturbing fact that the number of work-place accidents has increased. At this stage of the game anyway, the number of orders in force has decreased. I am sure the minister and members of this House want to know why this is happening. This could be a very valuable outcome of the inquiry. Is there any evidence that the Ontario work place in 1986 is or need be a less safe place than it was in 1985, 1984 and 1983? I ask him to look at that.

We welcome this inquiry, but if the inquiry is to be truly public and subject to the scrutiny of interested members of this House, it would be my hope that the report to the minister will then be made available to the scrutiny of a committee of this Legislature. It is good that his review will be external and independent, but then it will be time for the standing committee on resources development, the critics of the opposition parties and other interested members to take a thorough look at the outcome of this inquiry and perhaps, based

on that, make some recommendations back to the minister on how to clear up some of this mess.

**Mr. Rae:** I want to respond to the statement the Minister of Labour made today with respect to the announcement of two separate inquiries. Obviously, we will have some questions to ask the minister about these inquiries. I understand one inquiry is going to be directly retained by the deputy minister. The other one, which is a review, does not seem to involve any kind of public inquiry, any subpoena powers for the investigation of documents or any formal protection of witnesses who may want to present evidence of this kind.

What is lacking here is a clear sense of direction and a clear sense of political will. That is the nature of the problem and that is the issue at hand. To ask Mr. Laskin, whatever his individual qualifications may be—and those of us who know Mr. Laskin know of his qualifications and abilities—puts Mr. Laskin in a very difficult position with regard to recommendations and issues surrounding the whole question and the whole field of health and safety.

The fact that there is no mention here of discussion with the Industrial Accident Prevention Association or of discussion with the various accident prevention associations working with the Workers' Compensation Board, and that no broad-brush approach is being taken, means we are getting neither fish nor fowl. We are not getting the political will we want, need and require; nor are we getting a full-scale, independent public inquiry into the whole field of health and safety, which would then make what I hope would be the broad, sweeping recommendations with respect to wholesale changes in the administration of health and safety that are clearly required.

In reply to the minister's statement, he has not seen the last of this issue. If he thinks giving it to Messrs McKenzie and Laskin is thereby sweeping the issue under the rug for the next few months, he is sadly mistaken.

My colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) will be producing a report very shortly. He has uncovered a number of cases during the last year, and that work will continue. It will continue as it should, in public, politically, in this Legislature to hold responsible the people who are responsible for this, the government of Ontario and the Minister of Labour. Those are the people who are going to be held responsible in this Legislature for the things that have not been done.



**Mr. Martel:** I find it intriguing when the minister in his statement talks about an audit. An audit has been done by the Provincial Auditor, which is having difficulty getting finalized or getting to the surface. The minister raises his head in wonder, but he should know what is going on his ministry. Part of the problem is that he only gets what people want him to hear. An audit has been done, which is having great difficulty getting completed, and it is high time that got done.

The thing that amazes me most is that, once again, we have some sort of phoney study and no one from labour is involved. Who but labourers themselves have a right to determine what they need to protect their health and safety in the work place? What we did the last time was give it to a couple of academics. We gave it to Dr. Ham, who did not understand what was going on. Today he himself will admit the internal responsibility system does not work, cannot work and will not work. Nobody from labour is involved. It is two academics—great stuff, lawyers. They know what is going on in the work place.

They have never been in the work place. It is time the government got people involved who know what it is like to work for a living and to try to protect their health and safety. We have got a lot of nonsense again. If it is responsible for one thing, the government has kept the same principle the Tories had, which was that labour should have very little say. The Liberals have continued that policy. If the government said it was going to enforce the act seriously, 90 per cent of its problems would go away, but it has not had the will to do so.

#### STANDING ORDERS

**Mr. Harris:** I am pleased to respond to a statement made by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) on Thursday last week and again yesterday.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I listened very carefully. I believe that could have been done on Thursday and not today.

**Mr. Harris:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if that is what it is: I would like to speak to it.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member is out of order. The new standing orders call for responses to statements by ministries to be made on the day the statements are made.

**Mr. Harris:** With respect, Mr. Speaker, can you show me where it says that in the standing orders?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not have the exact number in my head, but I will be glad to draw it to the member's attention.

[Later]

**Mr. Harris:** Before oral questions, I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today when I attempted to respond to a statement made in this Legislature yesterday, you indicated that was out of order. I ask you to review standing order 26 on statements by the ministry and responses. Nothing there indicates we ought not to be able to respond to any statement made by the ministry. On the same point, under standing order 28, I believe five minutes are quite correctly provided to the opposition parties to respond to statements that were made by ministers. I ask you to reconsider any future decisions on the basis of that.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will accept the member's suggestion that I review it. I will, of course, consider what was discussed prior to the House setting out the provision of standing orders and I will report back.

2:27 p.m.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Grossman:** In view of the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), I have a question for the Attorney General, the minister responsible for the Ontario Medical Association negotiations.

Yesterday the Minister of Health said he could not see any advantage in appointing a mediator to try to end the current dispute. He said he was not doing that, mainly because he had not received such a request from the OMA. Yet a couple of weeks ago the Premier apparently entertained the idea of appointing a mediator. As a measure of good faith, will the Attorney General indicate whether he will recommend to the government that a call now go to the OMA suggesting a mediator be brought in to end the current situation?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I thank the leader for the question, but it is wrongly directed. The two people who can answer that are referred to in the very question, namely, the Premier and the Minister of Health. They are both on public business elsewhere today. I will see they get notice of the question so they can reply to the leader at the first available opportunity.

**Mr. Grossman:** We are on the brink of major chaos in the health care system. The Minister of Health and the Premier—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.



**Mr. Grossman:** We are on the brink of a potential crisis in the health care system. The minister reports that the Premier and the Minister of Health are both away on urgent public business—well, on public business. I put it to the Attorney General that there is no matter of more public import to the citizens of this province than the pending crisis and chaos in the health care system, which may start as early as this Thursday, and neither the Premier nor the—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Grossman:** My question is for the Attorney General and we request an answer today; not tomorrow or Thursday but today. As the person who has negotiated up front with the OMA, will he pick up the phone this afternoon and suggest that the OMA consider the option of a mediator so he might discuss that option at cabinet tomorrow?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** As I said, I will be delighted to bring the leader's question and concern to the attention of the Minister of Health.

I should make one other observation in response to the question. The government has introduced the bill to which the honourable member refers in an effort to comply with the Canada Health Act, which was passed by a unanimous federal Parliament, including the Conservative Party. That act has been complied with or will be complied with shortly by eight other provinces, including Alberta and British Columbia. We are attempting to comply with that act in this province.

It is a difficult moment for the government and for the medical profession, for which I have the highest professional regard, as well as for the citizens of the province. The extravagant assertions the Leader of the Opposition makes are not conducive to an orderly resolution of the problems.

**Mr. Grossman:** It is the height of hypocrisy for the Attorney General to stand there and now pretend he is fond of the medical profession, which he has been criticizing for months.

He has decided he can answer questions in the House on this matter when he wants to put up a defence of his government's mean-spirited attempt to destroy the medical profession in this province. Since he has been willing to begin to answer questions, I put this question to him when we are on the brink of chaos in the health care system: Having put up this spirited defence of his determination to push through Bill 94, will he

call the OMA and suggest that a mediator be appointed now to try to resolve this confusion?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** On all issues of hypocrisy, I concede the field to an expert. I do not think that kind of language is useful. My friend obviously thinks it is useful in parliamentary debates; I do not.

My answer to the question is the answer I gave before. I will bring the Leader of the Opposition's concerns immediately to the attention of the Minister of Health, who has the statutory responsibility in these matters, not I.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Runciman:** Those of us on this side of the House who read the red Star this morning—probably not many did, but a few of us did—were not surprised by the surprise of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations on learning that Suncor was raising its wholesale prices for gasoline. That minister has almost totally ignored consumer concerns about gasoline prices, and in his one foray into the area he was led down the garden path.

With respect to the Suncor announcement, given that the government now has two Liberal appointees on the board of directors of Suncor, how can he feign ignorance and only wring his hands in dismay?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I would like to address the member and read something to him. It says: "Gasoline prices are set by competitive prices in the marketplace. Obviously, those guys over there do not believe in the free marketplace. Government intervention is their answer to everything. Big Brother has to be involved in every facet of our lives."

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** Who said that?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** That was said by the former Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman).

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I again remind the members that they are wasting their own time. I can stand here as long as they want.

**Mr. Runciman:** I believed that then, I believe it now and I have not suggested government intervention. I want to say—

**Mr. Speaker:** You want to ask.

**Mr. Runciman:** It is interesting to learn what this minister's highly paid staff are doing. They are going through dusty files of 1981 speeches instead of dealing with the real issues that are of



concern to this province. That is what he is doing with his staff.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Is that your question or is that what the staff is doing? Quickly with the supplementary.

**Mr. Runciman:** It is apparent that this minister has been duped and conned even by his own company. Yesterday, he implied he would do nothing more. Why will the minister not follow the advice of his Premier (Mr. Peterson), as outlined in a release last year, and order an immediate investigation and legislate prior disclosure of increases to stop this collusion and ripoff of Ontario consumers?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** If the member liked the last one, he will love this one. I quote again: "Again, it is a question of protecting consumers. We in Ontario do not regulate the price of gasoline. The price of gasoline at the pump is a matter of free market principles, and although that might offend the philosophy of the member, that is the situation." That, by the way, was by the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes).

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I will just wait.

**Mr. Runciman:** This minister is a joke and nothing less than a joke. He is treating this whole House with contempt. He will not even deal with this issue.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary.

**Mr. Runciman:** The minister has a sorry history of dealing with this issue, which is a crucial one. He has ignored my calls for action on Imperial Oil's moves to end dealer support. He has been made to look foolish by the oil companies. Now he has been rabbit-punched by Suncor. Will the minister finally take charge of this issue in a serious manner and order a public inquiry?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I have a final quotation; it is dated May 20, 1983, and in effect says, "If the member is suggesting we hold a public inquiry, I think he is talking about wasting taxpayers' money by such duplication." That was by the Honourable Bob Elgie.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. We are going to recess for five minutes.

The House recessed at 2:40 p.m.

2:45 p.m.

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations after the brief medical interlude. He should be aware that he has said some funny things too. He did not say

them a long time ago; he said them during the past couple of days.

I will quote him from the Toronto Star of May 27: "My concern is, they say"—presumably "they" are the oil companies—"the price of oil has gone up and cheap inventories are running low. That doesn't square with what they said before."

In the Toronto Sun of May 26 he is quoted as having said: "When the price goes up like that overnight, it doesn't seem right to me."

With these rather sad, plaintive comments he has made, can the minister tell us precisely what he intends to do to protect the consumers of this province from being gouged?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I listened with interest to the member of the third party, and he stated that I had said some pretty funny things. The statements he quoted were not funny at all. I am really quite concerned.

The member should understand that the oil companies claim it takes 75 to 100 days for oil to go through the system. As a result of that, by the end of April or the beginning of May, we should have seen the effects of low-cost oil. The prices did drop down to 36 cents or 37 cents per litre. They have now shot up suddenly.

I am very concerned about that. If the member opposite will look at the statements I made in the House yesterday and the quotes, he will see I am looking into it. I have asked the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) to check with Suncor, where we have some interest; we do not have a controlling interest, and we do not have absolute control. But I am very concerned about it, and that is why we are making the statements that we are.

**Mr. Rae:** My question was, what is the minister going to do? He should know that a spokesman for Imperial Oil was reported recently in the Globe and Mail as having said, "I think somebody decided it was time to come up for air. The industry was losing its shirt before prices were raised."

Is the minister aware that for the year ended in 1985, Imperial Oil's profits were \$634 million, up 19 per cent over 1984? That is a pretty expensive shirt. Some shirt, some neck. Precisely what steps does the minister intend to take to see that prices start to come down? Why does he not have the power to do that right now?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I do not have the power to do that, because we in the province do not regulate the price of fuel.

That being said, the problem is that we are dealing with companies that are vertically integrated. We have no way of knowing whether



they use creative accounting methods whereby they allocate charges upstream or downstream, and that is the thing I am looking into.

I have asked Pat Carney, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, to look into it. I have asked Michel Côté, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, to see whether anything can be done under the Combines Investigation Act. That is the jurisdiction. That is where we are addressing our concern.

**Mr. Swart:** The minister may have made the Tories make an ass out of themselves, but that does not bring him any credit on what is happening to gasoline prices in this province.

Now that he has criticized the two-cent increase and said the federal government and the oil companies should take some form of concrete action, is that not in itself an admission on his part that competition is not working? If it is not, why does the minister not intervene and protect the consumers of Ontario?

2:50 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The member raises an interesting point, but so far in all the debate, not one person has been able to tell me the pricing is not justified. I am not saying it is, but no one in either party on the other side has said to me that those prices are not justified. We are trying to find out whether they are justified.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENTS

**Mr. Rae:** In view of the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I would like to ask the Treasurer about Ontario's involvement with corporations that are doing extensive business in South Africa.

Bishop Tutu will be addressing this Legislature on Friday. So far, we have had from the government no basic statement of policy on South Africa. We have had no indication of the steps that are going to be taken on the Ontario municipal employees retirement system. We have had no indication of what is going to be done with respect to the Ontario Hospital Association and hospitals that are purchasing from South Africa.

Are we going to get such a statement from this government? Does the Treasurer not realize that in the absence of that statement, the government, if I may say so, looks pretty silly inviting the bishop to speak to this assembly and to this Legislature? The government has not done all it could do to make the kind of statement that I know members would want to make with respect to South Africa.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member and his colleagues have placed three questions to ministers and to the Premier on this important matter.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) answered yesterday that no South African tobacco is imported into Ontario or used in the Ontario market. Rothmans has given us its assurance that this is the case. It is the only one that might have been involved.

Second, the member himself referred to Dominion Securities Pitfield and McLeod Young Weir doing business with South Africa. I am informed that those two companies were part of a syndicate selling some bonds or financial certificates for a German bank. They had less than one tenth of one per cent. Those sales were completed in 1984. As a matter of policy, they inform us they do no such business, either here or elsewhere, at present.

There was reference also to the OMERS board. The information we have is that in the extensive holding of the board—and they are very large holdings indeed—there are some securities associated with businesses that have investments in South Africa. I am informed the OMERS board is reviewing its policy in that regard.

I want to make it clear that the policy of this government, as enunciated by the Premier at the time he indicated we were no longer buying products from South Africa for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, is not to do business as a government.

**Mr. Rae:** With respect to OMERS, it is not simply a question of a few securities; it is a question of investments in both Canadian companies and, with respect, American companies that are doing significant business with South Africa. The Treasurer should know that.

What is the position of the government of Ontario? What is the Treasurer's position with respect to OMERS since he, as I understand it, was asked specifically by the Premier in the House to undertake the investigation and to make a declaration on the position of the government of Ontario? Has the Treasurer directed OMERS to take steps to divest itself of those shares and securities? If not, why not?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Let us deal with the other matter first. My information has been presented to the Premier, as he requested. If he had been here today, he might have been able to bring it to the member's attention in response to the question, but I cannot speak for him. The requested information has been placed in the Premier's hands as of today.



The whole matter of OMERS is not as clear as the member would have the House believe. There is a clear legal opinion that we can control OMERS only through the appointment of board members. I suppose that is a good way to control indirectly, but the board is in place at present. It has indicated it is reviewing its investments. I expect the board to make a report to me, to the Premier and to the House when that information is available.

**Mr. Rae:** The chairman of the OMERS board has been quoted as saying the divestiture of South African-related holdings could take up to four or five years. Is the Treasurer aware of that statement, and can he explain why that would be the case with respect to shares that are saleable at any time?

We have gone through the shares that are listed on the stock exchange, and OMERS would realize a very substantial profit from simply divesting itself of those shares today. Only three of the stocks are selling below the price at which they were purchased.

Would the Treasurer not agree that profiting from apartheid has gone on long enough and that a policy of divestiture on the part of OMERS and other publicly controlled pension funds and a clear policy with respect to hospitals is entirely in order now?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I was not aware of the comment made by the chairman. As the chairman of the group that has the trusteeship over those investments, he might be concerned that by dumping them in that way, the price might not be as good as it otherwise would be. However, as I say, the review that has been undertaken will surely report on that point of view as well.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. On January 4, 1985, his leader issued a press release saying fuel prices were a ripoff. It went on to say:

"The current fuel price increase demonstrates the need for Ontario to consider requiring prior disclosure by the oil companies when they intend to raise prices. Such a disclosure process would allow the Ontario government and the public an opportunity to examine and make input into the decisions on the important matter of fuel pricing."

My question of the minister is a simple one. Does he still endorse the proposal put forward by his leader on January 4, 1985?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** In principle, I do. The problem we have, as members of all parties will know, because they have all been quoted as saying it, is that the price is set in the marketplace. The story the oil companies have—and I am not defending them, because I do not know whether it is true, and that is what I am trying to find out—is that the prices in Metro have been unduly depressed because of a price war and that their prices now are where they should be, reflecting their lower cost of fuel.

I do not know whether they can justify that, and I have no way of finding out just by asking them, because all I can do is take their word for it. That is what we are trying to find out.

**Mr. Grossman:** The minister indicates he has no way of finding out the true story. That was precisely the thrust of his leader's press release on January 4, which was that no one has a way of knowing what is happening without a review such as the one conducted by Nova Scotia's Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities.

If the minister is as concerned as he said he has been in the past few weeks and if he is so determined to "make noises and get the prices down," surely he will agree that he must know what is going on and surely he will agree to stand by—not in principle but in fact—the press release of January 4, 1985. Does he or does he not stand by this? Is he going to follow this?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** As I said, I do in principle.

Two things happen. First, the Ministry of Energy has the analysts and the people who can take a look at that figure and see whether there is any justification. It is very difficult because of the vertical integration of the industry. Second, the member refers to Nova Scotia, which has legislation; and notwithstanding that legislation, has the highest-priced fuel in Canada.

#### NUCLEAR SAFETY

**Mr. Charlton:** I have a question of the Minister of Energy. The minister will be aware that as a result of the nuclear accident in Chernobyl and as a result of new information released last week that showed the safety features on the Chernobyl reactor are much more extensive than originally reported, major reviews are being undertaken in the United States, not only of new nuclear power stations but also of existing and operating power plants. Can the minister tell the House what plans he has to review the nuclear program in Ontario with a view to determining the safety of our reactors?



3 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** That initiative was taken a good long time ago when the safety of our reactors was put on the plate of the special committee. I am sure if the member reads that report, he will find Candu reactors are among the safest in the world by comparison. After the experience we have had worldwide, I am not suggesting we are not going to take a second look and make absolutely certain there has not been any movement from that situation.

What might be said also is that the reactor at Chernobyl could not have been licensed in Canada. I think that says a great deal about the Atomic Energy Control Board in Ottawa as another measure of making certain of the safety of the reactors here in Canada.

**Mr. Charlton:** The minister should be aware that it is unlikely the Pickering reactor would now be licensed in Canada.

In view of the fact that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the United States now believes that the likelihood of a major meltdown accident in the US in the next 20 years is about 50 per cent, and in view of the fact that we have never had a major study of the nuclear power program in Ontario by experts, when will the minister make up his mind to look into the nuclear safety of our reactors?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I have no quarrel about looking into the questions raised by the honourable member. I have no reason to defend the Candu reactors in Ontario in any way beyond a reasonable assessment of the circumstances. The major number of Candu reactors are in Ontario and they generate about 9,000 megawatts of power that go into our grid, which is a little better than a third right now.

The member makes a good point. We will continue to monitor and take direction from all members in this Legislature on what we should be doing to make absolutely certain Candu reactors are as safe as can be.

#### CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD

**Ms. Fish:** I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Last week, after his government tested two apples, with 300 million apples produced in this province each year, he assured this House there was no problem with dioxin, even though Kate Davies indicated the contrary in the Toronto Board of Health's report. Will the minister take these two Ontario McIntosh apples from me and put them in for testing to double his sample and for the first time take

seriously the testing of dioxin in foodstuff in this province?

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** The previous Minister of the Environment is well aware that it is impossible to have perfectly pure food in this world. She knows there have probably been dioxins in our atmosphere ever since man first rubbed two sticks together. The honourable member is aware that dioxin is a product of combustion and is found everywhere in the world in our atmosphere.

I find it somewhat peculiar that the previous Minister of the Environment would criticize my staff for taking the initiative to test foods for dioxin when that very same Minister of the Environment never conducted one test for dioxin on any food product.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Stevenson:** We also import a lot of apples into Ontario, and I have two imported apples. What information does the minister have on the contamination of such apples? Will he now triple the size of his study and see what confidence he can give the people of Ontario with this size of sample?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I am pleased the honourable member raised the concern we have about the importation of commodities from outside the jurisdiction which may have been treated with some kind of chemical that we do not allow in this country. There is no question the report of Dr. Davies can be held to question somewhat, because we are not certain the apples tested out of the grocery stores here in Ontario are Ontario-produced apples. We strongly suspect the apples tested were imported from outside this province.

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr. Martel:** I have a question of the Minister of Labour regarding the polychlorinated biphenyls at Westinghouse's Beach Road plant in Hamilton. He has not been very aggressive about fatalities, and we will find he has been even less aggressive in the prosecution of toxic substances.

Since the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) provides protective equipment and respirators for workers who are working around PCB spills, can the minister tell me why it took his staff three months after the initial complaint by the union in August 1984 to get even an acknowledgement of the problem, another four months to get in there, do the testing and give the



results to the workers, and a year after that to force the company to comply with an order, which had with the word "forthwith" on it and which has been ignored to this very day?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** According to the honourable member's question, this matter started back in 1984. Obviously, this government was not in power then and I was not minister then. As the member knows, in those days these orders were reissued.

I note the member talked about a "forthwith" order. I will check into the matter and find out about it. It appears the matter either should have been dealt with by a specific compliance date, as is now done when the order cannot be complied with forthwith, or it should have been complied with forthwith. I want to give the member a complete and full answer.

**Mr. Martel:** When the minister is doing that, will he look at the time when he did become responsible? Is he aware that on March 7, 1986, one of his inspectors recommended that a notice of intent under section 37 of the act for noncompliance be proceeded with? That means prosecution, but it has been in the works for some months now. Since that time, having given the notice, he still has not decided whether he will prosecute. At the same time as he looks at that, will he tell me why the 20 workers who have cancer, 13 of whom have died, have not received or are not receiving compensation benefits?

**3:10 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** On the second part of the question, we are back to the same matters we were discussing last week. I can refer that matter to the Workers' Compensation Board for an answer. It would have to be found that the matters are compensable because they occurred in the course of and arising out of their employment. The honourable member and I would agree that is the basis on which they must be found.

As far as prosecutions are concerned, the member knows very clearly what the prosecution policy is. He has a copy of it. Matters move forward, and I agree with the member's date. Notice was given under section 37 on March 7, 1986. I am sure the member would agree with me that if an information were sworn, it would be most appropriate that the first people to know would be those it was sworn against. I do not intend to discuss the status of prosecutions in this House until such time as informations are sworn, but given the volume that is coming forward to our legal branch, I will indicate to the member that some two months for the matter to work its

way up the line is not an inappropriate amount of time.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Northern Development and Mines has a response to a question previously asked by a member.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** In response to a question last week from the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) about announcing the date and location for public forums to discuss the north-south gas price issue, they are: June 16, Kirkland Lake; June 17, Sault Ste. Marie; June 18, Chapleau; June 19, Sudbury; June 20, North Bay; June 23, Thunder Bay; June 24, Kenora; and June 25, Red Lake. Staff of my ministry and the Ministry of Energy will be on hand at each session. In addition, I will be attending a meeting of the Northeast Municipal Action Group in Timmins on May 31 for a discussion of this topic.

**Mr. Wildman:** Can the minister indicate who the hearing officer or officers will be? What are the exact terms of reference of the task force, if that is what it is? Can the minister assure the House that after he has these hearings, his ministry and this government will take action to lower the price of gasoline in northern Ontario and not simply take the attitude of his colleague the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) with regard to the price of gasoline?

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** First, I will have to come back with an answer to the other questions because the member asked me only about the dates. I do not know the terms of reference by heart and I do not know the names of the officials. I will get back to the member on this one. I wish the member would participate in those open-house meetings to give his 10 or 15 years of experience in the House fighting the high price of gasoline in the north.

#### COURTHOUSES

**Mr. O'Connor:** I have a question for the Attorney General. In North Bay, an urgent situation exists at the district courthouse. The building is falling down and has been condemned every year for the past five years. Our government committed to the building of a \$12-million new facility which was to commence in the spring of 1985, which the Attorney General well knows. The minister's colleague, however, the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet (Ms. Caplan) cancelled that contract. Later in 1985, the Attorney General confirmed that the building would commence within fiscal year 1985-86. It



has not commenced. Will the Attorney General now advise this House of his updated timetable to his commitment to the people of North Bay?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** This is my commitment, as the honourable member knows, to the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris). I have responded to this question from time to time. The fiscal year in which we indicated the exercise would commence is not yet completed. What has happened is that in order to meet the desire of some citizens of North Bay who are anxious to preserve the old courthouse as an historic building, as it is, they are looking at whether it can be incorporated within the design of the new courthouse. That question has to be determined before the project goes ahead. We hope to have the answer very shortly on whether it can be incorporated. If it can, we hope it will be; if it cannot, we will proceed.

**Mr. O'Connor:** The minister knows well that the commitment was to a new court facility to commence in 1985 and he has not done so. Let us try another courthouse. In St. Thomas, victims, witnesses and the accused await their trials in a small hearing room 15 feet by 15 feet.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I will get my notes out. Not so fast.

**Mr. O'Connor:** Page 26 in the briefing book.

There is no police protection for victims and witnesses, who must occupy the same room with the accused. Witness intimidation, in fact, fist fights occasionally break out in this room. What timetable has the minister for the people of St. Thomas to alleviate this very serious problem in that city?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I could not hear the question, so my answer is—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. What is the timetable for the St. Thomas facility?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** The St. Thomas facility is an old, historic courthouse, as are all the courthouses for which the Conservative government was entirely responsible. As those who follow these matters will know, we are faced in this province with the fact that almost nothing was done for 35 years to update our courthouse facilities. It may not be pleasant but it is true. We have speeded up our capacity to respond to these needs, so we will be able to make more courthouse starts every year than our predecessors ever did and we will be able to make more renovation starts than our predecessors ever did.

**Mr. Grossman:** That is not true. The Liberals have done nothing.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** There is no point in trying to answer the question if they will not listen.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then I will call for a new question.

## FREE TRADE

**Mr. Mackenzie:** I have a question for the Treasurer in the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson). The Treasurer will be aware of the slap in the face Prime Minister Mulroney received from his good buddy Mr. Reagan with the devastating 35 per cent tariff on western cedar products, almost on the day free trade talks were to start.

I think the Treasurer is also aware of the irrefutable evidence that Canada's social policies, as well as the auto pact, are on the table. Is the Treasurer prepared to reverse his government's endorsement of the Mulroney initiative and end this very dangerous charade Mr. Mulroney is engaged in?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The policy of the government is to support any initiative that is going to improve and enhance our trading relations with the United States and other trading partners.

The Premier, more than anyone else, has pointed out the pitfalls and problems associated with the concept of free trade and its negotiation. At the first ministers' meeting in Halifax soon after this government took office, he brought forward his concerns on behalf of the manufacturing industry, the agricultural industry, the resource industry and those industries associated with finance, culture and other aspects of Canadian endeavour that in many respects find their principal manifestation in this province.

He has indicated clearly through reports he has tabled that employment levels will be seriously jeopardized. I do not think the honourable member or anyone else can place him among those who are enthusiastically supporting the federal initiative in this regard.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** One has to wonder then why his members endorsed the initiative in the interim report. Since the Premier clearly understands the devastation that could be caused in Ontario by the auto pact being on the table, and before these so-called bilateral talks expose any more sore points between our two countries, will the Treasurer end his party's charade of pretending in this House that he will not accept a bad deal, release unedited all the studies he has, and provide the leadership Canadian people want, to end the stupidity of the bilateral trade talks continuing in Washington?



3:20 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I am not aware that the Premier of this province or any other has the power to veto initiatives taken by the federal government. In statements I heard made by the Prime Minister himself at Halifax, he indicated that the negotiators for Canada would be in close consultation with the representatives of the provinces.

One of the things the Premier is insisting on—and I am not speaking for him, to say whether he is satisfied, and I doubt whether he is—is that this close consultation take place. As the member says, it was a slap in the face to everyone when we realize that this special duty was slapped on by presidential authority on the very day the discussions began.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Labour has a response to a question previously asked by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel).

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** Last Thursday the member for Sudbury East asked a number of questions concerning prosecutions under the act. It appears that the numbers he mentioned refer to prosecutions arising out of the activities of the industrial health and safety branch during the fiscal year that just ended.

During that period of time, there were 75 cases in which charges were laid and 56 in which convictions were obtained. However, in the 75 cases, a total of 292 charges was laid. Typically, the legal branch may lay more than one charge arising out of any incident, but when the matter comes to trial, it is possible to obtain a conviction on only one charge because of the legal principle that a person cannot receive convictions arising out of the same transaction.

At the same time, the honourable member asked why a union witness was not called to testify in the Perley Hospital case. I advise the House that there were extensive communications between the ministry and the union prior to the trial. The union wrote to the ministry describing its understanding of the relevant facts and supplied it with two witnesses' statements. Both witnesses recommended by the trade union, as well as others, were called at the trial.

#### TAXI LICENSING

**Mr. Gregory:** My question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and is in regard to his statement in the House on December 19, 1985, that he would proceed with an amendment to the

Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act affecting airport taxicabs and limousines.

I am aware that the minister, in a meeting with the mayor of Mississauga, Hazel McCallion, on April 22, 1986, indicated he was not going ahead with the proposed amendment. However, I have a letter signed by the minister, dated May 12, 1986, in response to my letter of some three months earlier indicating he is proceeding with the proposed amendment.

Is the minister or is he not proceeding with the legislation, or do we have to read between the lines, as he has answered on previous occasions?

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre:** I am quite aware of the letter the member is referring to, but I would like him to read all of the letter, not two or three lines. I guaranteed the mayor of Mississauga that I would not proceed with the present legislation until I had received a report from Mississauga, from the city of Toronto and from Metro as well.

**Mr. Gregory:** The minister seems to be doing one of these moon walks, where he moves rapidly backward while appearing to move forward. Which way is it? I am very clear on the impression he gave Mayor Hazel McCallion. I am also very clear on what he said in his letter. Is he or is he not? Whichever way he decides, will he guarantee to me that he will consider the opinions of the city of Mississauga and not just restrict himself to the opinions of the council of Metropolitan Toronto?

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre:** The member is very badly misinformed. Let me reassure the member that I have already met with the mayor of Mississauga on two different occasions. I spoke to her last Friday. I have met with the city of Toronto. I have met with Metro, the taxi industry, the livery people and the limousine people. The member was the only one who did not attend a meeting.

Let me tell him I did consult my people and also the representatives of Metro from his own party. Consultation is still going on, but he is badly misinformed.

**Mr. Gregory:** On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: The minister is telling me I did not attend any of these meetings. No, I did not, because he did not have the courtesy to invite me.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is not a point of privilege. It may be a point of information.

#### LANDFILL SITE

**Mr. Hayes:** My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Landfill site 3 in the township of Maidstone has been operating under a



certificate issued by the Ministry of the Environment. The certificate specifies that the depth for burying garbage in that landfill site is 10 feet and that the height is to be 20 feet above ground, but the garbage has been buried 28 feet deep and has been piled 42 feet above ground level. It is obvious that the Ministry of the Environment has condoned this action and has also allowed toxic waste to be dumped in that site. What action is the Minister of the Environment going to take with the people in his ministry responsible for allowing these violations to take place?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** In reference to that site, the landfill site 3 committee is committed to conducting thorough tests of the landfill site to determine what toxic chemicals, if any, are present. That commitment has been made. In addition, the ministry will conduct its own sampling and analysis as a means of auditing the county's program in that regard.

The member will know that, during the construction of bore holes, pockets of sand were found. The potential impact the sand will have on ground waters is being assessed by the consultants and by ministry staff to determine precisely what the effect will be. My ministry is investigating the situation. If conditions warrant, we are prepared to press charges.

**Mr. Hayes:** I think the minister is trying to answer the question that I believe I asked on May 12. The minister has just mentioned he is aware of the problems concerning toxic substances and also the discovery of sand seams. Now there is a move on to—

**Mr. Speaker:** Now there is a move on to the question.

**Mr. Hayes:** —dump sewage sludge in this site in the township of Maidstone. Will the minister take immediate action to ward off any move to dump raw sewage in this site?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I thank the member for that question because it draws an important additional fact to our attention. I will be pleased to investigate that at the earliest opportunity, which is today, and report back to the member.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING BUREAU

**Mr. J. M. Johnson:** I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. As the minister is well aware, the motor vehicle licensing bureau in the village of Erin has been closed. The Erin Downtown Business Association and the municipal council have requested that the ministry give consideration to reopening this office, which has served Erin and

the area for many years. Will the minister reconsider his decision to close this office if it can be demonstrated there is substantial community support for the need for this bureau in the village of Erin?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** As it is our practice and policy to attempt to support all the local communities in Ontario, the answer is yes, we will reconsider if it can be shown to be financially viable.

**Mr. J. M. Johnson:** Will the minister then accept the petition I hold in my hand as a demonstration of the community's support? This petition contains the signatures of more than 1,500 residents of Erin and the surrounding area, requesting that the bureau be reopened and expressing very serious concerns that the quality of life in this rural community will deteriorate if this essential service is not restored.

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** I think the member's question is whether I will accept the petition. Of course, I will accept the petition.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION

**Mrs. Grier:** I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I am sure all the members will have been very interested in the course of the past couple of days to hear the Minister of the Environment tell the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., the press and the United Nations environmental commission that he hopes by the end of this session of the Legislature to have in place stiffer fines and stronger penalties against those who pollute the environment. I would like the minister to tell the House when we might expect to see that legislation and participate in the discussions he is having.

3:30 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** As I have indicated to the member—I think it was in the House, and I am sure she will correct me if I am wrong; she usually lets me know if I am wrong—my recollection is that I have indicated on many occasions, including in this House, that I will be bringing forward this legislation in this session of the Legislature.

The member will know as well that these pieces of legislation must go through various cabinet committees in order that they may be assessed from a regulations point of view; for instance, the regulations committee, the justice committee and the economic policy committee. There are a number of committees that legislation of this kind must go through.



We will see it this session, and I hope next month.

**Mrs. Grier:** If the minister is having difficulty in persuading his cabinet colleagues to accept his legislation, I wish he would share that with the House and we will do what we can to help him.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is that your supplementary?

**Mrs. Grier:** All legislation requires approval of various committees on the government side. Will the minister explain to the House why there are now 41 pieces of government legislation pending before this House and not one of them has stemmed from his ministry?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** First, I want to clarify this because the member misinterpreted what I said, but not deliberately. I think she drew a conclusion from my answer and it was not an accurate conclusion. There is outstanding, tremendous and unanimous support in this cabinet for this legislation. For that reason, I can assure the member that we will see this legislation this session, and I think she will be pleased with it.

In regard to a number of other environmental matters, she will understand also that much of what we can do—for instance, the acid rain program we brought in, if I can give one small example—is done by regulation and does not require legislation. She will find that in many areas we are able to move without legislation. This is one that requires legislation, and members are going to see it soon.

#### DRIVER ROAD TESTS

**Mr. Villeneuve:** On Wednesday, April 30, my colleague the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) requested that the Minister of Transportation and Communications act promptly to reduce the waiting time of up to four months for driver road tests. What has the minister done in the past four weeks to help clean up the backlog of road tests in eastern Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** As recently as this morning, I met with my staff to review the practices and policies involving the licence issuing agents and agencies. In response to the previous question, it is not all that easy to find people. When I toured the riding of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, among the municipalities I talked to—I think there were 19 in that riding—it is interesting to note that none of them brought this concern to our attention. However, I assure the honourable member I will personally take it upon myself to address the issue he has raised.

**Mr. Villeneuve:** It is a very serious problem. There are backlogs of up to four months. Will the

minister please assure this House today that he will ensure no one has to wait more than 30 days to have a road test?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** With respect, the waiting period there and in any other location in this province is not something we created in the past 10 or 11 months. It is clearly a matter that should have been addressed by the previous administration. I can assure the member that because of my interest in the issue, I went and toured the riding on the weekend. We will undertake to examine his request.

#### PETITIONS

##### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Barlow:** I wish to table a petition which reads:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

Perhaps the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) will listen to these petitions and stop being arrogant and unresponsive to the public.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I would like to tell members that the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) was quite disturbed that no one was paying attention to him. I am sure all members will not carry on with their private conversations.

##### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Mr. Haggerty:** I would like to present a petition on behalf of the Niagara Coalition on Public Education respecting funding of the public school system in Ontario.

##### NOISE BARRIERS

**Mr. D. R. Cooke:** I have a petition signed by 72 people which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, having suffered from excessive noise and dirt as a result of the building of the Conestoga Expressway, ask that noise barriers be built from Frederick Street to Ottawa Street by the spring of 1986 at the very latest."

##### ABORTION CLINIC

**Mr. D. R. Cooke:** I have a petition signed by 33 people which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:



"We, the undersigned, petition that the continued operation within the city of Toronto at the premises known as the Morgentaler Clinic for the stated purpose of performing unlawful abortions is an affront to the law-abiding citizens of Ontario who presume that the Criminal Code, provision section 251, enacted by the federal House, was meant to be obeyed; and that the visible lack of enforcement of this provision is seriously eroding the protection of the Criminal Code affords all citizens of Canada.

"Permitting such privileged selection in the enforcement of the Criminal Code is seen to jeopardize our basic rights as Canadian citizens living in Ontario and we petition therefore that the Morgentaler Clinic be closed."

## MOTIONS

### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that membership on the select committee on economic affairs be as follows:

Mr. D. R. Cooke, chairman, Messrs. Bennett, Cordiano, Ferraro, Knight, Mackenzie, McFadden, McGuigan, Morin-Strom, Taylor and Miss Stephenson.

Motion agreed to.

### COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the select committee on economic affairs be authorized to sit on Thursday mornings in the place of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs until the select committee has completed its report as prescribed by the committee's terms of reference dated July 10, 1985.

Motion agreed to.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILL

### LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Barlow moved first reading of Bill 45, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Barlow:** This bill will require a secret ballot vote for certification of a trade union in all cases where the Ontario Labour Relations Board is satisfied that at least 45 per cent of the employees in the bargaining unit are members of a trade union.

The act now does not require secret ballot and provides that the board has discretion to decide whether to call a vote where it is satisfied that more than 55 per cent of the employees are members of the union.

My proposed amendment will provide also that a strike vote or a vote to ratify a proposed collective agreement taken by a trade union shall be by ballots cast in such a manner that a person expressing his choice cannot be identified with the choice expressed.

The Labour Relations Act of Ontario does not stipulate that union members must have the right to vote as a precondition to the right to strike. The decision as to whether a strike vote will be called generally remains with the union executive and is governed by the internal constitution and bylaws of the union.

Similarly, the internal constitution and bylaws of the union govern whether union members will be asked to vote to ratify a proposed collective agreement. Although the general practice in Ontario is to put the issue to a membership vote, the constitution and bylaws of the union—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I remind the member that the standing orders gives a member an opportunity to make a very brief comment or description of what is in the bill, not to debate it.

3:40 p.m.

## NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

**Mr. Speaker:** I remind members that yesterday the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) gave notice that she was dissatisfied with the answer to a question given by the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes). This matter will be debated tonight at 6:30.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES AND RESPONSE TO PETITION

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answers to questions 158, 159, 191, 199, 201, 202, 203, 208, 213 and the interim answers to questions 160, 215 and 257 standing on the Orders and Notices paper and the response to a petition presented to the Legislature, sessional paper 24.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**Mr. Jackson:** When I was last speaking in the chamber on this subject, I made reference to some input I had received from my 11-week-old daughter with respect to some of the expenses incurred in the province that are not necessarily



being addressed by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon). I brought a list of those with me today. In the interests of time, I will not read it, but I will provide it to the Treasurer in the hope he will examine this list of items that are essential to the health, general welfare and comfort of the babies in this province.

I would also like to raise the issue of child care or day care, which has not been given adequate treatment in the budget that was tabled in this House. Although I do not suspect my daughter will be a candidate for child care services in this province for many years, it would appear by the presentation of this government in this budget that is about when it will have completed its commitment not only to increase the number of subsidized child care spaces in the province but also to develop a comprehensive plan on the future direction of all families in the province.

I want to focus briefly on the concerns raised by the council of Burlington. On behalf of its taxpayers, that council has done quite a good job of keeping mill increases to a minimum level over the years. There were sacrifices and tough decisions made to achieve that. Therefore, it is a little difficult to understand why, for instance, we keep getting turned down by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) for badly needed road improvements when provincial expenditures are going up about double the rate of inflation, yet it is evident the transfers to municipalities will not be keeping up with that pace.

Last year I asked the minister for special funding for a project put on by Burlington Transit that operated during the holiday season. The minister rejected that plan outright, yet it would have contributed to the safety of persons who generally consume alcohol at that time of year. The plan was to take them off the road and use public transit systems. We suggested this was a worthwhile plan for all municipalities in the province. Again, we see no indication in this budget that projects of this nature will be taken seriously by this minister.

Transit grants to municipalities may be up from last year, but they are still \$22 million less than they were in the 1984-85 budget. It seems very likely that our school boards and post-secondary institutions will be treated somewhat similarly in that they will not be able to anticipate increases beyond their basic operating grant increases, despite a banner year for provincial spending. Local authorities will have to continue getting by on these barely sufficient funds.

All this is in spite of an apparent \$300-million fund created for pre-election expenditures, we have to believe, and a further \$800 million in windfall revenues the government will pick up if the economy performs as it is expected to do rather than as the Treasurer thinks it might. This is money that can go a long way towards fulfilling some previous commitments or towards establishing the kind of clear direction many people expected, or even, as has been suggested by almost every speaker on this side of the House, towards paying down the deficit.

With the reconstruction of the Queen Elizabeth Way in Burlington, a problem has surfaced with regard to increased noise levels. We have waited for six months for a response from the Minister of Transportation and Communications to address this problem. The ministry did a study and it has finally concluded that the sound levels have increased dramatically. Yet it will not put Burlington on a priority list. The ministry has it low on the second-priority list and it suggests that, because of limited funding, it will be unable to assist those families.

Asking senior citizens in the north shore area and Bellview Street who have experienced almost a double increase in the noise level from the Queen Elizabeth to wait 10 years is not proper and not right. They have every right to enjoy reasonable comfort in their declining years. For this reason, we lament the fact that nowhere in this project does the Minister of Transportation and Communications address specific projects of the type I have just described.

We are also all very well aware of the fact that last October the government committed itself to improving GO Transit service to Burlington early in the new year. Now the minister is hedging on that promise. He claims a \$1.8-million expenditure is unwarranted for this extension. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications estimates, which appeared last week, show \$74.4 million in capital funding will be approved for provincial transit programs, with \$54 million specified for GO train service expansion, yet the minister cannot earmark those dollars in that budget for a promise made last year.

Of course, that in itself should come as no surprise. The children and elderly were promised comprehensive programs; they were shortchanged. A promised \$25 million for increased youth programs under the Ministry of Skills Development is not there. A few more people will get reduced Ontario health insurance plan premiums next year. Then again, we notice in the budget



that there will be an increase in total revenues from OHIP premiums. That is because employment is operating at a fuller capacity, a capacity, I might add, that may not always exist. Therefore, what has been given away as a benefit in this budget will come back and be a compounded expenditure in future years if we do not have accelerated employment growth in our economy.

This budget reiterates the promises of more housing for the province. It repeats the promises of last December of 5,000 new Renterprise units and pledges the spending of \$500 million over the next five years. Burlington was among the initial municipalities on the Renterprise allotment list, and it was to receive 100 units this year. I have seen no project announcements, even though it is now late May, nor have I seen the construction of these units, in case the announcements had been slipped through by the minister.

The waiting list for affordable housing, however, is not standing as still as this program is. It is still badly needed in Burlington, where the vacancy rate is less than one per cent, as it is in many areas of this province.

Last year as well, the minister promised us a revitalization of the Ontario home renewal plan, which was one of his top priorities. In December, he said he was not planning to put any new money into it but was bent on uncovering all the unused OHRP money in the province and reallocating it where it would be put to use.

**3:50 p.m.**

Burlington has a lengthy waiting list for these funds. There are about 40 families waiting for assistance. We would have liked to have seen some of that reallocation money this year, since people often end up dropping off the waiting list, unable to hold off renovations any longer. Nowhere in the budget were these moneys specifically flagged, nor did we get a commitment from the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling).

In December, the same minister said he had plans for finding the money. Just recently, we got letters advising us he is now getting around to asking if any of those municipalities have that additional money sitting in their bank accounts. That is five months after he advised this House he would be pursuing that immediately. He waited five months.

The people of Burlington are used to seeing action, in the great tradition of George Kerr. If this is the way housing priorities are going to be treated, I fear we are going to hear in the next

budget that \$500 million will be spent on housing in the next four years and so on, until we end up with one-year crash building programs promoted by this government. I would not be surprised if that corresponded with an election.

Promises do not get any better through repetition. In construction, bricks and mortar build better housing than the words we are hearing from the Minister of Housing. The people of Burlington South would like to see some action in housing for a change. They would like to hear about the housing being built, not from their car radios, as two families had to do two months ago when they were unable to get assisted housing or rental housing anywhere in the city of Burlington. They had to seek it in the town of Oakville. They spent several nights in their car, listening to their car radio to get the news. They would have liked to have been in their living room watching the news on television.

Much has been stated in the House today about the problem of rising gasoline prices and the amount of revenue that is being generated by our Treasurer. I would like to point out a statement made by David Perry of the Canadian Tax Foundation, who quoted how much the province would earn in this windfall. If Ontario had kept the previous tax in place, its gasoline tax revenues would have declined with oil prices, allowing consumers to hold on to an extra \$200 million. That is \$200 million which this Treasurer failed to correct and failed to pass on to the consumers of this province. He had an opportunity in this budget to undo what he did in his first and previous budget.

**Mr. McLean:** That is why they are so unhappy at Earl's Shell.

**Mr. Jackson:** I know the people are unhappy at Earl's Shell. Once one turns the corner from Earl's Shell, one has to go to the local doctor in Brant county, and he is unhappy. One cannot stop there, so one has to go down the road to the local pharmacy. The Treasurer cannot go in because they are angry with him there. Then he will go by the latest post-secondary education institution near his riding, and they are angry at him for underfunding. However, he always returns to Earl's Shell because Earl is such a compassionate person. Earl happens to be one of the most famous dispensers of gas in the province, and for that he pays dearly.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** He has competition: Sam's Full Service.

**Mr. Jackson:** Sam's Full Service? That is going to be a mouthful. I am sure the Minister of



Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) will advise us that he cannot correct the problem of rising gas prices because of the competition between Earl and Sam; it is driving profits down and as a result, the price of gas will have to rise in some fashion to compensate for that.

I would like to conclude my remarks by saying that the people of Burlington South expected better from this budget. They wanted to see a government that would chart a definite course for the future with plans for the long-term economic health and security of this province, not only for today's citizens but also for future citizens. Nowhere do we see that according to this political agenda. They wanted a government that showed itself capable of responsible fiscal management.

The greatest loss for a legislator in public life is the loss of an opportunity to improve on our prosperity. The people of Burlington South regret that this government willingly let go an opportunity in this budget to ensure Ontario's continued prosperity.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I rise only because of my high regard for the honourable member who spoke. He was good enough to compliment me last October for removing the sales tax on car seats, for rather personal reasons. He was so enthusiastic, and knowing his propensity, I thought I would look at the cost of removing the sales tax on Pampers next year to see whether we could win him over permanently.

I thought I would also mention his reference to his concern about responsible fiscal management. I believe the budget does achieve that, in that we have reduced the cash requirements by close to \$600 million, easily \$100 million more than the amount of revenue that was not predicted from the previous budget. The honourable member will know that in the previous budget, the combination of 2.4 per cent real growth and inflation made for a projected revenue increase of about \$1.6 billion.

In the event, and as we approach a more prosperous year, we expect the all-in growth to be about eight per cent. With no new taxes, that should leave an improvement in our revenue of slightly more than \$2 billion. The windfall, if I may call it that, is between \$400 million and \$500 million, and more than that was dedicated and allocated to the reduction of our cash requirement.

At the same time, the member should be aware that we have made a substantial planning commitment of \$850 million in new money to

hospital renovation and construction, including our cancer treatment facilities. This year we have also allocated \$100 million to a high-tech fund that we believe will stimulate our industries and our universities in worldwide competition.

**Mr. Jackson:** I appreciate the lecture from the Treasurer on his understanding of economics. However, I remind him that since he assumed his most important office, we have seen an unprecedented expansion of the civil service, something on which the previous government made a strong commitment not only because it was fiscally sound but also because that is what the public was telling us.

I do not accept all of the Treasurer's statements with respect to fiscal responsibility when I see he has incorporated into his new budget some new annual operating expenditures for a variety of ministries, expenses this government will never relieve itself of from now until time immemorial.

He talks a bit about this \$100-million high-tech fund. That is very interesting. If one dismantles the Innovation Development for Employment Advancement Corp. and the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, takes some of that money and then announces it at the halfway point of the year, one is only using old money, dressing it all up and sending it back out there in the hope the public will see it in a new light.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** A very cynical approach to public policy.

**Mr. Jackson:** The truth is most cynical, as the Treasurer knows. He has even gone so far as to say in this House that he had to suffer many years of it when he was standing in a place similar to mine. However, I had always hoped the minister, with his compassion, would have overcome that and would have seen fit to come straight with the public in terms of what is new money and what is not.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom).

**Mr. Breaugh:** Do we not get any comments?

**The Deputy Speaker:** We have already had comments. If the member had been here a little earlier, he would have known that we had finished the comments and the responses.

**4 p.m.**

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** I am pleased to be able to participate in this debate on the budget. I feel this is a vitally important issue we are facing in the province today. The budget has been laid out by the Treasurer, who takes the position, and I am quoting right from the budget in the second



paragraph, that "the outlook for Ontario's economy has improved significantly since my last budget."

To this point, that statement does not refer to the portion of Ontario north of Barrie. Northern Ontario is facing significant economic problems. The economy is improving in southern Ontario. The unemployment rate is going down, the economy is growing in real terms and there is considerable construction in the Toronto area and throughout the Golden Horseshoe. In northern Ontario, we are facing severe economic hardships. It is vitally important that this budget and the economic policies of this government address those problems over the next year.

Under Economic Outlook in the budget address, it states, "Ontario's economy is expected to grow in real terms this year by 4.2 per cent." In northern Ontario, we wish that were so. The Treasurer goes on to say, "We expect to see 175,000 new jobs created in Ontario this year, and the unemployment rate is expected to average 6.9 per cent." In the part of the province I come from, I cannot understand how that can possibly be so. We would like to see the similar figures for northern Ontario.

Over the past few weeks we have seen one action after another in the resource sector and in the major industries upon which so many of the communities in northern Ontario are dependent. We have seen major layoffs and restructuring, as most of those companies refer to it and as has become the terminology of the government.

Most significant in Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma Steel announced its permanent down-sizing program, which will eliminate 1,500 existing jobs. This is on top of a reduction of 3,000 jobs over the years since the recession hit in early 1982 and on top of a reduction in employment, particularly in the tube division of that plant, over the past several months. The reductions over the past months were due to the problems in the oil industry that caused market problems, which have resulted in somewhere between 700 and 1,000 jobs at the plant in terms of short-term market dislocations. On top of those market dislocations, we are seeing the plan to shut down major facilities permanently, which will result in the loss of another 1,500 jobs by the middle of next year.

This is going to have a serious impact on Sault Ste. Marie, an impact we have discussed in this Legislature several times over the past month. I was particularly pleased when the standing committee on resources development came for a two-day session in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa

last week, and we addressed these problems. A number of the members of the Legislature had the opportunity to hear at first hand from the company, from the unions, from Algoma Central Railway, which is being severely affected in this situation, from the communities of Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie and from both chambers of commerce.

We heard a number of very good presentations that provided an overview of the situation. Perhaps most stark in its reality was the joint presentation of the Anti-Poverty Coalition, the Unemployed Workers' Council and the Sault and District Labour Council. Their submission at the conclusion of our hearing pointed out the reality of the situations facing individuals and families and older workers facing job dislocation. The submission also pointed out the lack of opportunities in our community for other employment.

Today at Algoma Steel, for those jobs that do not have priority because of a particular department but that are part of the overall labour pool, it requires 17 years' seniority to hang on to a position. This is before these major layoffs. We are going to see many workers with in the order of 20 years' service losing their jobs, probably permanently, in Sault Ste. Marie as a result of this down-sizing action.

In Wawa, we see the potential for at least a major reduction in the level of that operation. The company has hinted there is a possibility it may have to shut down if it cannot get reduced costs on the Algoma Central Railway and in the costs of labour at the Wawa operation, and if its competitive position does not improve compared to ores from Labrador and elsewhere around the world.

Terrace Bay is another serious example. Kimberly-Clark, a major paper producer with head offices in Atlanta, Georgia, has indicated it is looking at totally shutting down that plant, which would result in the loss of 2,000 jobs in Terrace Bay and would virtually close down that community in terms of job opportunities.

We have had the case in Thunder Bay with Great Lakes Forest Products, another major subsidiary of Canadian Pacific, as is Algoma Steel. Great Lakes Forest Products has announced it is making major reductions in its operations and will be shutting its waferboard plant in Thunder Bay.

Just this past week from Timmins, we heard the announcement from Kidd Creek Mines, one of the consistently profitable mines in Ontario and one that was very profitable again this past year, that it is going to be laying off close to 300



workers at the major mining operation in the Timmins area. Again, that was a result of actions by a major multinational, Falconbridge, which purchased Kidd Creek Mines from the Canada Development Corp. and is apparently trying to recover its heavy debt costs and interest expenses. As a result of those additional interest expenses to pay for the debt in buying up that major mine, it is now showing losses on an operation that has historically been one of the most successful mining operations and one of the richest ore bodies in the province.

One of the major initiatives undertaken in the budget address this year was in the area of technology. There was a commitment to a 10-year program, a \$1-billion technology fund, which was highly touted in the budget address. However, what is not addressed is what this commitment will do for the resource sector and the major manufacturing industries, such as steel, upon which many northern communities are dependent. We have to have a commitment from this government that technological initiatives will be used to stimulate the creation of new enterprises in northern Ontario related to those products coming out of the north that make sense.

There is desperate need for secondary industry related to the resource sector, to the forest industry and the mining materials produced in the north, which could be manufactured in the north into secondary products, finished consumer products, to provide more jobs where we so desperately need them. There are opportunities there for us to add more value to our resources as we take them out of the ground and out of the forests and to create the jobs we all need.

**4:10 p.m.**

I hope a major portion of the technology initiative, for which \$100 million has been put into the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology this year, will go towards the establishment of technology that will assist northern Ontario, such as technology centres that will be involved in training people, providing research and development of new products and new opportunities, the startup of new, smaller secondary industries in northern Ontario and the stimulation of innovation in terms of new products that are currently not being produced in the Canadian market, but are being imported. We have a severe deficit in our trade balance in finished products. There are major opportunities for us to produce high-value-added finished products. Much of this could be produced out of the resources we are developing in northern Ontario.

It is time we had some initiatives to get new businesses off the ground in the north. If the private sector is not going to do it, it is time for this government to look at putting in public funds to stimulate the opportunities we need in northern Ontario.

The Conservatives speakers in this debate, such as the previous speaker, have said they feel we should be cutting government spending severely and trying to balance the provincial budget. The provincial budget is not severely out of line. We are looking at a deficit of something like \$1.5 billion, an insignificant deficit compared to the level of deficit the federal government faces. Now that funds from taxation are increasing because of the level of the economy in southern Ontario, we need to take a major portion of those funds and reallocate them to the development of new businesses and manufacturing enterprises in northern Ontario. If the private sector will not do it, we need the public sector to step in and get those operations off the ground.

Reference was made in the budget under the technology section to the Ontario Development Corp. There was no specific mention of the Northern Ontario Development Corp. We have to wonder whether it is this government's intention gradually to phase out the distinction among the Ontario Development Corp., the Northern Ontario Development Corp and the Eastern Ontario Development Corp., which are specific vehicles designed to support new development in northern and eastern Ontario. I believe it is vitally important that NODC receive an expanded funding base and that it be given a mandate to help in the development of new industry in the north.

There is a reference in the budget to employee share ownership plans. I do not think this is a policy that will be in the long-term benefit of employees, that will be of sufficient benefit to stimulate new investment or that will provide improved workers' control over the destiny of their own lives in the operations in which they work.

With employee share ownership plans in the United States, management has been the major beneficiary. These plans do not offer workers any say in how a company is run. One of the most fundamental problems we are facing, particularly in major one-industry towns in the north with large corporations based in Toronto, New York, Atlanta and elsewhere outside northern Ontario, is that they are making decisions affecting the employees and the communities in which they are operated. There is no provision under the plan



of the Treasurer to give employees any say in the operation of the plant. In fact, it has to be expected that most of the benefits will go to management level employees who will get tax benefits while they purchase more shares of the corporations they are involved in.

It appears that the ESOP program as currently envisioned will subsidize managers to buy more shares and offer another tax loophole to the wealthy. I believe employee participation and control is one of the basic ways to promote higher productivity, safer work places and the investment needed to ensure job security, but the ESOP promise to reduce employees' paycheques without offering any real control over their work place is likely to turn out to be a farce. The ESOP policy is indicative of what the Liberals mean when they talk about worker participation. The goal is laid out, but the means to achieve it are totally missing in the Treasurer's proposal.

I know the key to the future is co-operative effort to capture the promise of the new technology initiatives that the government has addressed in this paper, but we also have to address the abilities of Ontario's working people. To do this, we must give workers some control over their investment and technology so that their health and safety, their pension fund investment and community development are the responsibility of those who are most concerned, that is, the average Ontarians.

To move on to another subject related to the technology initiative, the section entitled Investing in Education, the Treasurer touts the excellence fund which is to provide up to 500 new faculty positions in Ontario universities. It is time this government looked seriously at the allocation of university and college funds across this province and asked why it is we have no graduate schools of any kind in northern Ontario. Northern Ontario gets well under its share of university funding, with very little funding to support a program such as that.

The two major schools in northern Ontario, Laurentian and Lakehead, operate on funding levels from the provincial government of a little more than \$20 million a year. The total amount of university funding for northern Ontario is approximately \$50 million. However, if we look at any one of the major schools in southern Ontario, for example, Queen's University, it has a funding level of nearly \$90 million going into the community of Kingston. When we look at the economic impact that type of spending provides on a community the size of Kingston and then compare it with the funding that is available to all

of northern Ontario, we really have to question what this government is doing.

The northern Ontario development fund is a commitment of \$100 million for development in northern Ontario spread over five years, that is, \$20 million per year. That total over five years is less than a school such as the University of Waterloo receives each and every year of its existence. That kind of major, ongoing funding for one institution dwarfs the kind of spending by this government that is going on in the north.

It is time the government recognized that a priority has to be placed on supporting the development of northern Ontario. A major portion of that could be a refocusing of educational resources, which I believe are vitally important in stimulating and providing the infrastructure we need for northern development.

It is time we started to look at the need for a medical school in northern Ontario. Why is it that we have never had doctors trained in the north, when we have a shortage of doctors and difficulty in attracting specialists to northern Ontario? If we had a medical school in the north that was training northern physicians, we would have a far better chance of hanging on to those specialists we need.

**4:20 p.m.**

We need a school of mines and metallurgy in the north. We need a major graduate program in forestry in northern Ontario rather than at the University of Toronto. We could all benefit in the north from a school of social work, which would provide those social scientists so many northern communities need to face the unique social problems in the more isolated communities in the north today and into the future.

In the area of health care, there is also a need for certain specialties. The chamber of commerce in Sault Ste. Marie made a strong presentation to our standing committee on resources development last week with its request that a program in physiotherapy be added to Algoma University College. There is a desperate shortage of physiotherapists, speech therapists and audiologists across northern Ontario. In fact, there is a shortage in the supply or training of those specialists across the whole province. Why not meet that demand by putting a school in northern Ontario to address these specialized areas of therapy?

Algoma University College would be an excellent candidate for something such as that. It receives funding of slightly more than \$2 million compared to Queen's University in Kingston, which receives close to \$90 million, and many



other major schools in southern Ontario, which receive funding of more than \$100 million per year.

The schools in the north are insignificant in their size and in what they can do in comparison with the major facilities that have developed over the many years in southern Ontario. This is something that would take time to develop, but it is time we addressed some of these problems and started to make a change in where this government is going to allocate its funds in the future.

Further on in the budget, we have discussion of regions and communities. I see specific mention of Sault Ste. Marie with reference to the community economic transformation agreement. This program will be renewed and broadened in scope. The Treasurer states, "The city of Sault Ste. Marie, which is facing major layoffs at Algoma Steel, is an obvious example." This program will be of importance to northern communities, particularly those depending on single industries that face severe structural adjustment problems.

However, the budget for this program is only \$25 million spread over two years. I hope a major portion of this will be made available to Sault Ste. Marie, but I believe that with the number of communities in the north which are facing similar problems with their major employer a much larger initiative will be required to support economic development initiatives in those communities. The \$25 million over two years hardly compares with the wages we are seeing lost at Algoma Steel.

I have the Algoma Steel annual report for 1985. The total wages and salaries paid by Algoma Steel in 1985 were \$295 million. When we add the full benefits, the total cost of employment at Algoma Steel was \$436 million. Based on the number of employees in the Sault, approximately 90 per cent of that would be for wages and benefits paid to employees in Sault Ste. Marie. We are talking about close to \$400 million in wages and benefits received by the employees in Sault Ste. Marie. We are seeing a reduction of more than 15 per cent in that work force in this major down-sizing effort. Even 15 per cent of the \$400 million would be approximately \$60 million in wages and benefits, at least \$45 million in direct wages.

That figure completely dwarfs from one community alone, one business alone, in terms of lost income \$45 million in lost wages over the next year compared to \$25 million spread over two years to cover all those communities facing severe economic dislocations in the province,

even given that the majority of those could very well be communities in northern Ontario.

The initiatives talked about include those for northern development. I have already mentioned the \$100-million northern development fund spread over five years, of which only \$17 million is being dedicated for next year. Again, it is small compared to the lost wages and spinoff effects we are seeing in Sault Ste. Marie.

The Treasurer mentioned \$10 million for health care and transportation initiatives in northern Ontario. I suspect a major portion of that is the funding for the medically necessary travel, which we are going to have our first full year of this year. During the last fiscal year, that program was in effect for only four months. There is no indication of a major initiative in that area.

We have mention of \$5 million being spent on educational programs in the north. The one initiative we have heard about is the proposed high school for northern Ontario, for which I understand Sault Ste. Marie is a very strong candidate. However, the level of funding for a high school is small in comparison with the level of funding and the economic benefits that would come from a major university program initiated in northern Ontario.

To move on to the health budget, one of the major initiatives of the government was the \$850-million fund for major multi-year hospital capital expansion. The \$850 million is probably the single largest initiative in this budget, but where is it going? The allocation among the various regions of the province indicates that only \$25 million is going to northern Ontario, the area of the province with the highest unemployment, where even construction employees have severe trouble getting employment and a major capital initiative would be of great significance to many northern communities.

That \$25 million out of \$850 million is about three per cent of the funds that have been dedicated over the next five years for new hospital initiatives. Even on a population base, northern Ontario has approximately 10 per cent of the population of Ontario; so we are not getting anywhere near our per capita share when we get three per cent of the funds to cover 10 per cent of the people. The \$25 million will not pay for one major hospital in northern Ontario.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) has been informed on a number of occasions, and I hope the Treasurer will recognize the problems in Sault Ste. Marie, about the aging Plummer Memorial Public Hospital. Efforts have been put



together to rationalize the operations of the Plummer and the General Hospital, which are the two major hospitals in our community.

The hospitals are virtually next door to each other. They have developed a good detailed plan for the rebuilding of the Plummer hospital a little closer to the General Hospital and then the construction of a central services wing, which will join the two hospitals and provide common services in the most efficient manner possible for both facilities.

I hope the government will look at moving that initiative forward and getting it on stream rather than, as it obviously is right now, being completely out of initiatives to be started during the next five years.

I am sure there are other communities in the north with similar health concerns which they would like addressed as well.

**4:30 p.m.**

Finally, I will move on to the area of the budget entitled "Fiscal Management," which is where we get to the issue of taxes, tax increases and changes in tax rules. Basically, our conclusion concerning the tax initiatives is that there is nothing to be negative about because there are virtually no initiatives in here. I have to admit there are no major tax increases in any of the major sources of revenue to the province. However, there is nothing to be positive about in terms of fiscal management either. The Treasurer has been given an opportunity to restructure some of the taxes and to introduce tax fairness, and he has done virtually nothing in that vein.

We see no provision for a minimum tax on the wealthy. We have no initiatives for easing the property tax burden, which is a very regressive tax to the disadvantage of average home owners in my community and in others. We see very little in terms of the initiative that has been made regarding the Ontario health insurance plan premiums, which I had understood this government was committed to gradually phasing out.

In northern Ontario, and in my community in particular, the issue of gasoline prices has been an ongoing serious concern. The penalties that northern consumers pay in higher gasoline prices are a severe economic hardship. They mean extra dollars out of everyone's pocket in the north. They are a disadvantage for businesses in the north, a disadvantage that is reflected in the greater distances that are required both for residents in the north and for those moving goods and services in and out of the north. We have no initiatives either to reduce gasoline taxes or to

take action that would better equalize the price of gasoline across the province.

Those of us who come from northern Ontario feel there is a basic unfairness in what has been going on now for a number of years in terms of the much higher gasoline prices we are paying than residents of southern Ontario pay. I have asked the Treasurer before to look at this issue. Obviously, he is in sympathy with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Affairs, who indicated earlier today that the government has no intention of taking any action against the oil companies, which are gyrating consumers around in terms of the prices they are charging, which bear no relation to their costs or to the fact that the oil prices on the world scene have been sharply reduced.

The differential being charged in northern Ontario is not related to the costs actually incurred to get gasoline to the north. In Sault Ste. Marie's case, we have very low cost vessel transport in tankers right on the waterfront. There is no justification for prices that are seven, eight, 10 or 12 cents a litre or even higher in Sault Ste. Marie than in Toronto.

The last area before the conclusion of the budget was a brief mention of the new budget process and of the fact that the Treasurer has asked that a new legislative committee on finance and economic affairs be appointed. I am pleased to be one of the members of the New Democratic Party on that committee.

The terms of reference as the Treasurer has laid them out include what he states is "a growing public concern about corporate concentration and ownership. In many cases this concentration is being fed by mergers and takeovers." The Treasurer states, "I question the merit of these mergers as well as the dangers the resulting concentrations pose for our communities."

That is true for the northern communities I have been talking about, those that are so dependent on one major industry. Communities such as Sault Ste. Marie are at risk by the decisions being imposed by Canadian Pacific, which controls Algoma Steel and has a majority on that corporation's board of directors.

I look forward to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs having the opportunity to investigate the whole area of corporate concentration in ownership. If we can come up with some proposals that will ensure the corporate world operates in a more democratic fashion and is more responsive to the needs and concerns of the employees and the communities that are so



dependent upon them, we will have done something of value.

In conclusion, I want to point out a few areas where I and other New Democrats feel major initiatives are needed in the budget and in terms of where this government is going in the next year to support the economy of northern Ontario.

First, we would like planning mechanisms to be introduced that would encourage the diversification of the northern economy. We need structures and programs that will provide long-term planning at the community, regional and provincial levels to enable northerners to control their future and to offset the effects of the boom-and-bust cycles of the resource industries in the north.

Second, we would like to see mandatory resource use planning agreements. These agreements should be flexible but should include guarantees to train local residents, to provide opportunities for small businesses in the north and to invest profits in community development.

The third initiative is one we have been advocating for a long time. I continue to press the Treasurer to look at the need for a northern Ontario tomorrow fund. We need a heritage fund, modelled on the examples in Alberta and Saskatchewan, so the wealth that is created through resource development is reinvested in northern Ontario rather than its being taken to southern Ontario, New York, Atlanta or wherever, with no benefit to the areas where those resources are coming from. We would like to see a permanent, northern Ontario fund that would build stable communities and long-term employment for northerners.

Finally, we would like to see the government become involved in resource development that would provide permanent jobs for northerners, in terms of both direct resource development and secondary industry that would produce more finished products; products related to the resource sector but ones that would be more job-intensive and would displace much of what is currently imported into the Canadian economy.

The provincial government must play a major role in diversifying in the north by centralizing its offices, by expanding services and by becoming more directly involved in the whole area of resource development and diversification.

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for this opportunity. I look forward to seeing what this government will do during the next year, particularly about those problems that we in the north are facing right now on a day-to-day basis. The severe economic hardship that is facing my

community is one of serious concern to me and to everyone in Sault Ste. Marie.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I would like to comment since the member for Sault Ste. Marie is talking about one of the real emergencies in the province. He is aware that my wife and I lived there. I used to teach in the old high school; it is closed now, but I still have many friends in the—

**Miss Stephenson:** That is why.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Leave me alone.

**Mr. Foulds:** It was a cause-and-effect relationship.

**4:40 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Members are using up my 140 seconds.

I appreciate the comments of the member for Sault Ste. Marie. The various ministries of the government will be responding over the next few weeks, we hope with something concrete.

We acknowledge that Mr. Kelleher and the federal government have indicated a special fund of about \$6 million will be utilized over five years. It is quite a lot of money, but as the honourable member has already pointed out, depending on how long we spread it out, it can look fairly large and not be that significant on a year-to-year basis.

I was particularly delighted and pleased that the member mentioned the employee share ownership plan. Not many honourable members talking about the budget have referred to that great initiative, fleshed out with all the details the honourable member is referring to.

I want to give members the assurance that it is not our idea that the concept of the program be top-hatted; i.e., it is not designed to reward the upper echelons of management. It is designed so working people can enjoy the benefits of share ownership—i.e., profits, we hope—during these buoyant times in the growth of the economy of the province.

I would be the last to say seriously that all the details are worked out, but we intend to have a program in place for the first of the next calendar year. We have solicited views from interested people, management and labour particularly. We are not designing this to undermine labour in any way, although I am sure my comments will not make them feel that much better about it, but we do believe it will be a viable and effective program.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** I am pleased to respond to the Treasurer's comments. I would like to inform him that since he left the Sault, while the high school is shut down as a high school, it is



prospering as a facility for other uses, in particular an elementary school that is now the largest elementary school in the community with a very successful French immersion program. The projections show that in the French immersion program at the Sault collegiate, the student body may be as large as the previous high school within a very few short years; it is up to about grade 6 right now.

I see a number of problems with the employee share ownership plan. One is, where does it give the employees any say in the operation of the corporation? It appears to be another tax benefit or tax loophole that goes with surplus funds to purchase shares. They will be able to get some benefits and reduce their tax payments, and we will see more and more people without any tax burden at all.

In terms of the overall applicability of the program, if a major corporation or a smaller corporation were having difficulty and the employees wanted to take over the firm, from what I see, this plan does not address that critical issue. That is most important. The employees want to get control of the operation, of the decision-making, particularly in cases where the plant is being severely reduced in size or shut down. We would like to see that addressed as well.

**Mr. Pollock:** I rise to partake in this budget debate. I am concerned about what is not in the budget rather than what is.

I have a major problem in my riding, and that is the excessive cost of workers' compensation assessment rates. One of the industries that are hard hit in my riding is the forest industry. This year all the rates went up by approximately 15 per cent.

The forestry industry got involved in what it calls the new employment experience rating program. That means if a company is employing a person who gets injured and goes on workers' compensation, the employer's rates go up. The forestry industry's rate went up from \$11 and change to \$13 and change.

A person called me who got involved in the new employment experience rating program. His rate is \$33.17 on \$100 of assessment payroll. That means that if he has a payroll of \$20,000 a year, he is paying more than \$6,000 for workers' compensation coverage.

I have a letter from another gentleman—actually it is a copy of a letter—addressed to the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, which I wish to read:

"I wish to have all my compensation coverage cancelled as of March 27, 1986. I am ceasing to operate my business due to the recent results of the new experience rating system and the unrealistic ratings being charged to my account.

"I can understand having to pay either increased rates or the amount arrived at under the new rating system, but I do not understand the reasoning behind having to pay both penalties. I trust that the Workers' Compensation Board is proud of these kinds of actions, as you have just put one more small business out of business, which means that three families now find themselves on UIC benefits, and with the job situation as bleak as it is in this region, probably on social assistance for who knows how long.

"Congratulations on a job well done."

It is signed by Charlie De Geer.

All is not well in the farm community either. Rates went up by 15 per cent for the dairy farmer. I know that if one is paying out more wages, and wages are going up every year, that amounts to far more than 15 per cent. On my family farm operation, with the increased dollars I had to pay out for help, my workers' compensation assessment actually went up by 35 per cent. I point out too that I pay out more in workers' compensation coverage than I pay for insurance on five tractors, two trucks and two cars. I pay almost double for workers' compensation coverage.

I also question the Workers' Compensation Board's right to come along and assess an employer even though it has never proved that employer is at fault. It automatically puts his rate up. I thought the notion went out 200 years ago that one was guilty until proved innocent. Nevertheless, the board is doing this under the new experience rating program.

**Mr. McLean:** New government policy.

**Mr. Pollock:** It could be.

On May 14, there was a meeting at the Bancroft Fish and Game Club. It was a meeting with a group of people involved in the forestry industry to discuss the NEER program. I was not able to be there because of a previous commitment. However, I talked to a gentleman afterwards and he said there was real concern. This gentleman runs a sawmill business. He was paying out \$34,000 for workers' compensation coverage, and it now has gone up to \$42,000 in a one-year period.

I feel there should be one rate for all employers across the province. The only time there should be an increase in a rate is if an employer is found guilty of negligence towards his employees.



4:50 p.m.

I was in this House when the critic for the Ministry of Labour begged the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) to take dollars out of the general revenue fund and help out with the workers' compensation premiums, but it fell on deaf ears.

I could go on to tell about some other experiences. My next-door neighbour had a person working for him. This was a young fellow, a well-built chap. This happened last fall. For some unknown reason, he was up frigging around with the beaters of a self-unloading forage wagon. He had a pair of mitts on, and one spike of the beater caught in his mitt—this was late in the fall; that is why he had mitts on—and started to take him through the beaters.

If he had not been a strong, well-built lad, he would have gone through that forage wagon and that would have been the end of it. He was able to throw himself back and break the chain that actually runs the beaters. As a result, he wound up with an arm broken in two places and some internal injuries. He was on workers' compensation for more than three or four months.

This is another thing: Under the new program, one gets 90 per cent of one's wages. When the farmer put down his wages, he put down his wages plus the amount he allowed him for board, which was \$70. When the fellow was on workers' compensation benefits, he was actually taking home far more dollars than he had been getting when he was working. One cannot blame the guy; we are all tarred with the same stick. He was taking home more money than he had been when he was working; so one could not blame the guy for being a little hesitant to go back to work.

I wanted to put these statements on the record. I feel the government should have helped out with the increase in costs to the small businessman and the farmer by putting some dollars out of the general revenue fund into workers' compensation to alleviate that burden.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thought the budget, if anything, had too much in it about small business. We had quite an array of enriched programs and some new programs. One of the ones I am particularly interested in is designed to attract entrepreneurs, mostly young people, who want to start up small businesses on their own.

What we require from them is \$15,000 that they borrow from their Aunt Maude or somewhere and a business plan: "How I can make money making pizzas?" or whatever it happens to be. It has to be reviewed by a bank manager, and we pay the local bank manager to do that. If it

is approved, we guarantee an additional \$15,000, so that an entrepreneur has \$30,000 available to start.

That is not much for any kind of substantial business, but what we get is an opportunity for young people to take a chance at this. He or she is required to hire one additional person. I use both pronouns because our experience is that many more women than men are moving into this area, and it is interesting to note that their failure rate is much lower than that of men.

We do not for a moment think this is going to be the great final answer; far from it. It is more in the sense of an experiment giving young people particularly and others who have worked for a long time for somebody else a chance to branch out on their own and make some money for themselves. They may lose some money, unfortunately, because it is not guaranteed, other than the half of the loan. We also think it is going to improve opportunities for jobs for young people in many communities where those opportunities are pretty scarce.

**Mr. Lupusella:** I have a comment I would like to make. Briefly, I was following with interest the comments made by the honourable member in relation to employers raising the issue that they pay too much on their assessment. I sympathize with small businessmen in Ontario, but the member should be aware that when a committee of this Legislature was appointed to take a look at the Workers' Compensation Board reforms, we made the point very clearly that the best investment to reduce the rates to employers across Ontario was to increase safety in the work place.

I hope the administration of today will take into consideration this aspect of reducing accidents. In the final analysis, the employers across the province will have their rates reduced.

**Mr. Pollock:** In response to the Treasurer, I have no axe to grind with his program of \$15,000 to allow small businessmen, students and those types of people to get involved in new businesses. That has not too much to do with what I was talking about, which was workers' compensation claims. That \$15,000 to help start up a new business is a fairly well accepted program.

To respond to my learned friend the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella), I am not against safety in the work place. In fact, I try to promote it. In different cases, I have employed people and I have told them, "This is the safe way to do it." I know perfectly well the minute my back is turned those fellows will go and take a shortcut, and



they are the ones who are actually at risk. How does one control it?

This Legislature passed the seatbelt law, which says that once one is over 16, if one is riding in a car, one is responsible for wearing a seatbelt. That is not the way it is in the work place. The employer seems to be always at fault, and I do not think that is right.

**Mr. Pierce:** It is a pleasure for me to stand up in this House today and give my response to the budget tabled by the Treasurer.

While we are on the topic of compensation, I support my honourable colleague the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) in regard to the high compensation charges now being faced by a number of small employers who find themselves no longer able to find work in major industry. As a result, they go out and promote the job environment by starting up small businesses, making room and making work for other employees, and then find themselves faced with very high operating costs.

**5 p.m.**

I know the pulp and paper industry and the logging industry in my riding have got out of the business of doing their own cutting, slashing and hauling of their wood products. Maybe the large companies saw the writing on the wall with respect to compensation and that necessitated their move away from being the harvesters of their wood products.

As a result, a number of small contractors sprang up in the Rainy River district and thought they could go out, work a little harder and provide the labour necessary to bring the product into the mill and at the same time be small businessmen and make some money. They also have found their rates going from \$13.65 per \$100 to \$33.80 per \$100. Over and above that, they find the WCB assessing them the costs related to any claims they may have had in the last year.

One small contractor in my riding employed eight workers. He had eight tree farmers and was commanding some fairly large contracts with a major paper company. He has now put himself out of business because he can no longer afford it, based on the high compensation rates and the high employee costs of being a big businessman. He is now back to running things with one tree farmer and one helper.

As long as we continue to address the problems of the small businessman by making sure we as government get our fair share or better, we will always be faced with high unemployment and welfare. We certainly seem

to be promoting that in the type of legislation we prepare in this day and age.

Having the opportunity to address the Liberal government's budget allows me to represent my constituents, the people of Rainy River and of the north. It is on their behalf that I express my disappointment with the government's lack of concern for the people of northern Ontario. The Treasurer says his commitment-to-action budget "responds to the individuals, regions and industries that need immediate help." He says it offers "a series of concrete incentives to innovation and entrepreneurship."

If the Treasurer read his budget more closely, he would realize there is no commitment to act in northern Ontario. The individuals of this region have continually been shortchanged by this government in the past year. Unfortunately, the 1986 budget has ignored vital issues in the north, a part of Ontario rich in minerals, forestry and natural beauty. This region could enhance our economic prosperity if only the government would recognize its importance to the province and treat its people with the fairness they deserve.

The budget talks about additional money for tourism. The government is going to put new signs along the highway and build new rest facilities. It talks about these measures in promoting the tourist industry and showing people how it could treat them to "Ontario—incredible," as we now call it.

I have a note that came across my desk today from a resident in my riding, who is in probably one of the heaviest tourist related areas in northwestern Ontario, the south end of Lake of the Woods. He said: "Re Highway 621: Upset with the condition on the road. My wife had a blowout and rolled her car last week. No guardrails or anything along the road for protection. Does someone have to be killed before anything could be done on this road?" The government is responding by saying, "Yes, we are going to put up road signs, new washroom facilities and restaurants."

As I said before and I will say it again, in response to the throne speech and in response to the budget, until such time as this government is prepared to address the conditions of the roads in northern Ontario, we will not promote a tourist industry. Tourists that travelled this same road last year to some of the prime, purest area in northwestern Ontario came back with broken axles, flat tires and damaged boats and motors because they could not continue to drive over the roads. We sit here in this Legislature and come



up with this kind of a budget and say we are going to set up better signs to enhance tourism. I hate to say it, but that is not going to enhance the tourist industry in northwestern Ontario.

Unfortunately, the 1986 budget has ignored the vital issues in the north. What upset me most is that the government has not equalized the price of milk or gasoline in the north. It is fine to talk about the price of gas in the north, and we talk about it often, and we recognize the differences in the cost and that they are related somehow to the marketplace. There seems to be an attitude that if one lives in the north, then one should be prepared to stay in the north and one should be prepared to pay to be in the north. One will do that by paying more for the commodities that everyone else in this great province takes for granted, and the prices are then dictated by the marketplace. The people in the north must pay unnecessarily high costs for the necessities, while people in the south enjoy reasonable costs because they are dictated by the marketplace.

Yet somehow or other, in past years and past governments, we have been able to equalize the price of liquor from one border to the other. In many cases, people in the north have lower incomes and cannot afford \$2.60 for a two-litre bottle of milk for their children. In southern Ontario I can buy three litres of milk for \$2.49. Where is the justification? We produce all our own milk in northern Ontario; we do not bring it in from southern Ontario nor do we transport it from Manitoba. The districts of Rainy River and Thunder Bay are exporters of milk, not importers; yet we still pay excessively high prices for milk.

In the last election, the Liberals campaigned on the strength of saying: "You in northern Ontario deserve to be treated better. You deserve to be paying the same prices for the necessities of life as the rest of the people of Ontario, and if we form a government, we will equalize the price of milk in northern and northwestern Ontario." Ladies and gentlemen, I am afraid that has not happened.

**Mr. Wildman:** Why didn't you do it before?

**Mr. Pierce:** It is fine to say, "Why didn't you do it before?" Today is today. Yesterday was yesterday. Let us look for something better tomorrow.

Not meeting the needs of the people in this respect is a crime. Families need assistance. Where is the \$100-tax deduction that was promised in the 1985 Liberal campaign? They may have forgotten their promise, but I can assure them the people of the north have not.

In the budget, we have done some things. The budget says there have been no significant increases in taxes. It is perhaps unknown to a lot of members here that in northern Ontario the products move in and move out by trucks and trailers. We have now removed the tax exemption on trucks and trailers, which can only reflect back to the consumer. Nobody else can pick up the difference in the price of the truck now that people have to pay the tax on it.

**Hon. Mr. Eakins:** It is the same in the other provinces.

**Mr. Pierce:** I am saying that is the difference in northern Ontario. Those prices are real prices.

A lot of the entrepreneurs in northwestern Ontario are in the trucking business. They are small truckers, very competitive, working very close to the line; yet we have a government here today that says: "Here is a chance to pick up some more tax money. We have not increased taxes. We are just removing the exemptions." One small opportunity that people in the north and throughout Ontario had in getting around some of the high cost of fuel was by being able to convert their vehicles to alternative fuels such as propane and, to a lesser degree, natural gas. The Liberals say, "We did not add any tax; we just removed the exemptions." I guess they do not call that a tax increase. I always thought it was to be considered as an additional cost, but this budget says, "We just do not have the exemptions any more; so it is not considered a cost."

**Mr. Dean:** That is not a cost?

**Mr. Pierce:** No. We may have to write out a bigger cheque, but it is not considered a cost.

When one buys an average vehicle to get back and forth to one's work place or to move around in northwestern Ontario from one community to the other, the cost of that vehicle is up to \$18,000 and, where one was previously exempt from tax if it were run on an alternative fuel, one will now pay more than \$560 in tax. I do not know, but it seems to me that is an increase. I may be reading it wrongly.

In the speech from the throne, the government promised to provide immediate additional funding for northern Ontario tourism development programs. Although a total of \$12.8 million in new funds is being allocated to the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, there is no mention of how much will be spent in the north. The north will likely not see any of this funding.

**5:10 p.m.**

It is not with completely blind eyes that the people of the north recognize there is more to



tourism than northern Ontario. A lot of tax dollars in tourism come into eastern Ontario too, and we recognize the need to spend and promote tourism throughout the province. However, our voice has to be heard in the Legislature, through the Speaker and through the ministers responsible, to make sure that when there is an allocation of funds set aside for more development in tourism, northern Ontario gets its fair share.

In the budget, \$5 million was allocated to education, along with the proposal in the throne speech of a technical school, which would be situated in Sault Ste. Marie or Sudbury. First, \$5 million in the area of education, an area of great importance, will not even cover the north's existing expenditures. Second, although I am sure the Liberals think themselves clever to introduce a technical school proposal for the north, they neglected to announce that startup costs would range between \$5 million and \$7 million, a sum that would leave the rest of the region without funds. The government also did not mention that some of the students will be required to travel distances of more than 800 miles if they want to attend the school. Furthermore, where will the money come from to keep the school running?

The campaign promise to provide complete medical care for northern citizens and to reduce the frequency of patient travel to southern Ontario is not in this budget. There is nothing to provide better access to special care and treatment facilities. The people of northern Ontario are still required to travel great distances under extreme conditions to gain access to what we in this part of the province consider natural. Here we get in a subway or a taxi and go to the facilities that provide the services. The people of northern Ontario are not so blind as to think every community can have these types of facilities, but they believe geographical distances dictate that the facilities could be better placed throughout the province.

The promise fully to reimburse citizens who travel to southern Ontario to obtain care they cannot receive in the north is not addressed completely. There is an instance in one of the communities in my riding today of a young lady who requires additional treatment for her heart. Her husband is an employee of a small company and makes very little money. There are four children in the family.

The requirements of travel for health care dictate that they buy the ticket to bring the lady down to eastern Ontario to go through more testing, and when they return home, after the

doctor has signed the forms, they apply to be reimbursed. These people do not have command of \$1,000 in their savings account. They do not carry plastic credit cards because they do not have the credit. For that reason, the service clubs are out on the streets trying to come up with the necessary \$1,000 to have that girl brought down to eastern Ontario for treatment. This is not accessibility to health care. If anybody believes it is, he wants to come up and take a look around.

The \$25 million allocated to support northern hospital programs is a mere drop in the bucket. Facility improvements will never be met at this rate. A small community in the west end of my riding has applied for and received approval for 14 extended care beds. The Ministry of Health has responded by saying: "Your hospital is not suitable to attach 14 extended care beds. You do not require extended care beds; you require a new hospital." The population of the community is under 1,000. The proposal by the consultants is \$7.5 million in today's dollars. This community's hospital is less than 30 years old.

The people believe the hospital serves the needs of the community, but the Ministry of Health has said: "That is not the case. If you want extended care, you go with the full package. We are going first class and that includes the new hospital. You come up with your share and we will come up with our share." Those kinds of conditions are pretty tough to meet in communities of fewer than 1,000 people.

I cringe when I think of the way the government has ignored the region's vital farming, mining and forestry industries. In the riding of Rainy River—and it is strange the way the weather treats us—for the last two years farmers have been unable to get on their land because it has been so wet. This year it is so dry that our forests are all on fire. Yet the response by the government of today is, "We are expanding our marketability to the Pacific Rim, and this is going to assist the farmers of Ontario."

The farmers in my region, the west end of the district of Rainy River, because of government controls and regulations, are required to drive 160 miles out of their way to get their beef cattle to market. Recently, they received a letter that said, "The elevator that was accepting your grain last year is no longer accepted as a designation elevator and the new designation elevator will be in Sarnia, Ontario." It is only about 1,300 miles. I suggest it may be difficult for some farmers to bring their grain in early on Saturday mornings.

A promise of special marketing programs and assistance programs for farmers does not apply.



When we were in power, the Ministry of Northern Affairs worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to implement a northern agricultural strategy. Through the northern Ontario rural development agreement, NORDA, 900 farmers were given financial assistance to upgrade their farms. Government assistance went a long way in establishing a vital sheep industry in the north. Those are not the goats that went to Sudbury either. Those were the sheep that went to northern Ontario.

In addition, the \$10-million agrinorth program contributed significantly to agricultural development. The program of financial assistance for high interest costs and refinancing of farms is also being used by the farmers of northwestern Ontario.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what has the Liberal government done for the northern farmers? I do not really expect you to answer that here today because it would take a long time, but I am sure you may have the answers.

In the area of mining, which was probably one of the more stable industries in northwestern Ontario until the last 15 to 20 years, the Liberals have done nothing to assist the mining industry. Almost every day and any day that one picks up a paper, there are more layoffs and closures in the mining industry than in any other industry in Ontario. If this Liberal government thinks it has done something great for the mining industry in this province, then I believe we are in serious trouble.

**Hon. Mr. Eakins:** It all happened in 10 months, did it?

**Mr. Pierce:** It certainly developed in 10 months. The Treasurer says the mining industry has long been the mainstay of many northern communities; yet the proposals simplifying the Mining Act presented last fall are still on the government's shelves.

Finally, with the exception of the pesticides lab, which may be of some direct benefit, the forest industry is largely ignored by the government. The government says it is increasing its forestry budget by 13 per cent. This is not nearly enough for a thriving industry. If the dry spells continue in the north, protection of the forest industry will be out of our control and anything we would have done to stop the spreading of the spruce and pine budworms will have been for nothing, and the forest will no longer be with us.

**5:20 p.m.**

We should have seen more assistance for our troubled mining industry, more support for the proper harvesting and conserving of our forests

and definitely more concern for the northern farmers. With the \$2.3 billion increase in revenues this past year, the north, which makes up 10 per cent of the population in Ontario, is entitled to at least \$230 million in value. If the north was given its fair share of this amount, the areas which desperately need funding could be accommodated. Nothing has been presented in this budget which benefits the people of the north economically or socially.

When the Liberals say they are committed to ensure that all Ontarians are guaranteed their fundamental rights and yet they come out with a budget that practically ignores a major region of the province, one wonders about the commitment they have to the people they serve. The people of this province will soon realize the shallowness of the government's promises. The Progressive Conservatives, unlike the Liberals, are committed to listening to the people of northern Ontario and will make sure their voices are heard in this Legislature.

I appreciate being able to speak on the budget. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Mr. Eakins:** I would like to make some comments in regard to the remarks the honourable member has made. I appreciate what he has said. I want to point out to him, as far as my Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is concerned, never in the history of throne speeches in this province has there been as much attention and profile given to the tourism, recreation and hospitality industry as there was in this recent throne speech and this budget.

In the throne speech, references were made to additional marketing for northern Ontario. This will be taking place very soon. The member will know we are starting a roundtable. He has been invited to some of these meetings in northern Ontario to look for a tourism strategy for the whole province, with special emphasis on northern Ontario.

We have already held meetings in Dryden, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, North Bay and Sudbury, and in July we will be in Thunder Bay. We are not telling the people of northern Ontario or Ontario what is good for them. We are going out to ask them, "What is your greatest need?" There will be an excellent report and action will be taken on behalf of northern Ontario.

I want to point out also that last December, when there was a problem at Searchmont near Sault Ste. Marie, we did not wait for that to be closed; we helped keep it open for the winter. As a result, there has been a great deal of interest shown there. This ministry is going to do



everything possible for northern Ontario, and I mean that.

**Mr. Pierce:** I am encouraged by the minister's comments on tourism. I do not want to attack him in his role as the minister for tourism and development in northwestern Ontario or Ontario as a whole, but I only hope he is able to have enough influence on the other ministries within his government to ensure that, "Yes, minister, the tourism industry is prepared to assist you and offer you comments."

I am sure the topics of roads, accessibility to the industry and fewer laws to allow the industries to expand, flex their muscles and promote themselves were some of the comments that were widespread at the roundtable discussions. Certainly, those were some of the comments in Dryden.

The minister cannot do it by himself. Anything that happens in northwestern or northern Ontario requires the participation of a number of ministers, not one alone. We recognize also that the tourism industry is one of the most important industries to the development of northern and northwestern Ontario, but we also recognize that industrial jobs cannot be totally replaced by tourism alone. It takes more than just tourism.

I thank the minister for his comments.

**Mr. Wildman:** I rise to participate in the throne speech debate. At the outset I would like to extend my congratulations on the way the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin) presides over the Legislature. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to your continuing to serve in this capacity. I congratulate you on your dignified approach to debate in this House.

I must say, though, that I am disappointed in both the presentation of the throne speech and in the budget from this government, particularly, as my colleagues from northern Ontario have indicated, in regard to addressing the need for development in northern Ontario.

In the throne speech was a section that purported to deal with strengthening the primary sector. In that section of the throne speech, the only sectors mentioned were tourism and agriculture. As the minister has said in the House, there was an emphasis on tourism in northern Ontario, and we welcome that. There was an emphasis on the need for economic development for farmers in the north, and we welcome that. Yet it is beyond me how any government can have a section of a throne speech that purports to deal with the primary sector but does not even mention mining or forestry. There was not one mention of mining or forestry. The two most

important resource industries in northern Ontario and, for that matter, in this whole province were not even mentioned.

After I saw that, I hoped that in the budget we would see something dealing with those two crucial sectors and dealing with the needs of the north. I must say I was again disappointed.

We have a reiteration of the \$100-million fund announced earlier by the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine), half of which is the old northern Ontario regional development program in the first year. As a matter of fact, the budget specifically mentions that \$17 million will be drawn from the \$100-million fund. That fund will be going for five years.

Beyond that, all that is mentioned for northern Ontario is \$5 million for education, most of which, I suspect, is going to be taken up in funding the proposed school of science and technology, which is needed and which is a good proposal. That is going to take up the total for education in northern Ontario.

The rest is \$10 million for health and transportation. I suspect that deals specifically with the medically necessary travel program which was initiated by this government with our encouragement and which we support. After the throne speech, the Treasurer got up and said something to the effect that transportation was being dealt with, and he referred to the \$10 million for health and transportation. That \$10 million has nothing to do with roads or with other types of transportation. It is specifically for the people in northern Ontario who need specialized medical care but cannot get it there and so are being transferred to larger centres in the north or to southern Ontario.

The only other announced funding program specifically related to the northern economy is the \$25 million for adjustment, not just for northern Ontario but for the north and for eastern Ontario.

**5:30 p.m.**

We are undergoing tremendous restructuring, the buzzword. Yesterday in the standing committee on resources development, the Deputy Minister of Northern Development and Mines called it job shedding. There is certainly job shedding in northern Ontario, and we have announced \$25 million in the budget to deal with this adjustment in eastern and northern Ontario. I said to the Treasurer last week that was peanuts, and I do believe it to be peanuts.

If we look at the immediate situation facing Algoma district with the announcement made



recently by Algoma Steel Corp. of a layoff of about 1,500 jobs in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa, we realize we are talking about a yearly pay package for that 1,500-work force of \$45 million. We are taking \$45 million out of the economy of Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa alone each year, and the government is answering with \$25 million for economic adjustment for northern and eastern Ontario.

It is peanuts and it will not do anything. I said earlier in this House that the Treasurer has designed this budget in the same way the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) designs the road map of Ontario. Southern Ontario is on a much larger scale and northern Ontario is relegated to the back and ignored. We have serious problems in the north to which I believe this government is obligated to respond.

I will be fair. The Minister of Northern Development and Mines has travelled in the north extensively. He has attempted to learn the problems and to design programs, but he is alone in the cabinet, which must be difficult. He set up an advisory committee on resource-dependent communities of which I was a member. You were also a member, Mr. Speaker, as was the member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce). That committee has made its report, has finalized it and sent it to the minister. I hope the ministry and this government are going to respond, but the budget does not encourage me.

Obviously, most northern Ontario communities are dependent on forestry and mining. This dependence has left northern communities vulnerable to threats currently beyond their control, which mean serious dislocations. Changes in world commodity prices, depletion of the resources, productivity improvements, new technologies and the cyclical nature of these industries make it very difficult for any northern community, for families in the north or individual workers in the north, to plan ahead and know where they are going to be five years hence.

A major layoff or closure can force the majority of a town into unemployment, destroy local businesses, rob the municipality of its major source of revenue and depress housing values. It costs all Ontario taxpayers, not just northern taxpayers, through increased unemployment and welfare payments, lost tax revenue and lost investment in infrastructure that is no longer needed.

We have situations in northern Ontario where we put in water and sewer services for communities based on projections that have been given to

us by the resource employer, the resource industry. The economy was going to expand in that community and the population was going to expand, so we overbuilt the infrastructure. When there is a major change and suddenly the industry announces it is either going to lay off and down-size or close out completely, the taxpayers of this province are left with having spent the funds that were not really needed and the north is left with high unemployment and a declining population.

The age of the population in northern Ontario is getting progressively higher and the size of the population is going down. At a time when the unemployment rate in this province is going down across Ontario, the unemployment rate in northeastern and northwestern Ontario is going up. On regional adjustments, this is the time of year when unemployment is viewed traditionally as going down.

When the economy of the Golden Horseshoe and Toronto is booming, we normally anticipate the economy of northern Ontario will also increase and expand. However, right now, as the economy is changing and we move to more emphasis on the service sector and the information industry, the primary resource and heavy industry upon which the north is dependent is declining. While we have a boom in southern Ontario, we have a decline in the north.

I am not sure we have been able to explain well enough or convince this government that we are in a serious decline. There are two Ontarios, one that is in decline in the north and one that is expanding and growing in the south. I am certain the budget indicates the government does not yet realize that.

I would be the first to recognize there is no quick fix. I agree with the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) that these problems did not suddenly develop in 10 months. They have certainly been exacerbated and they have certainly got worse. We have had one layoff announcement after another all spring, but I agree they did not develop all at once. They have been ongoing. The previous government did not respond adequately and did not foresee the need to take action to deal with the problems of the northern economy.

**Mr. Runciman:** The member had to say that, did he not?

**Mr. Wildman:** In response to the member for Leeds, it is interesting that the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) is saying the same thing in northern Ontario. I find that amusing and somewhat ironic when the member for Kenora



was the Minister of Northern Affairs for 10 years. Now he is saying the same kinds of things I am saying right now about the economy in northern Ontario.

**Mr. Runciman:** It is a requirement for the member to blame it on the previous government.

**Mr. Wildman:** I am not blaming it on anyone. One of the problems we have in this House is that as politicians obviously we make political statements, but we have political rhetoric and we never get to the point of actually dealing with the serious problems facing northern Ontario.

I am not particularly interested in blaming anyone, whether it be the previous government, a political party, the corporations, the unions, the small business sector or the municipalities, but we have to work together to do something about it now. If we do not, we are going to face the situation where we are going to have a Cape Breton on our hands in northern Ontario. I do not think anybody down here understands that yet.

There are two ways of dealing with the problems of the north. One approach is to look at each individual problem or crisis as an individual aberration, something that has to be dealt with on an ad hoc, reactive basis. That has been the approach in the past, and it not worked for Tories, Liberals or New Democrats. The other approach is to stress the potential of the north, not to be gloom and doomers, but to see we actually have a chance to develop real employment opportunities for northerners. That approach sees the north as an asset to the provincial economy, not as a dead weight or an anchor pulling us down.

If we accept this approach, we have to move beyond trying to cushion the blows major layoffs impose upon us. We can create a prospering region with a stable employment base, good service facilities and a clean environment. But this Legislature and this government have to move quickly, in concert with the other two levels of government, if we are going to achieve that. We must create programs and structures that lead to long-term planning at the community, regional and provincial levels.

I believe northerners and their communities must have more control over the decisions that affect them. Moreover, the wealth created from resource development in the north must be reinvested in the north to build strong diversified communities.

Yesterday, before the resources development committee, the deputy minister indicated we are creating more and more wealth in the north, and in that sense the economy is improving. At the

same time, they recognize that the employment levels are going down in the north. That says to me we are taking more and more wealth out of northern Ontario and reinvesting less and less in our part of the province.

In the short term, that may benefit the metropolitan centres, Toronto and the Golden Horseshoe, and the people who live in southern Ontario, but I do not believe it benefits even them in the long term. I do not think creating more congestion, concentration and centralization is good for the economy of the province as a whole. It certainly is not good enough for the north.

**5:40 p.m.**

The provincial government must take the leadership role in diversifying the north by decentralizing government offices, expanding services, research and development and direct involvement in resource development in northern Ontario. In the short term, when closures or layoffs happen, the investment of the community and the workers in those industries must be considered, and the government must make a commitment to preserving those communities and developing real job opportunities for the people who live in them.

If there is going to be community and regional planning, as the Minister of Northern Development and Mines has been saying for these many weeks and months, that planning must be co-ordinated at the provincial level. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is in the best position to take a strong leadership role in co-ordinating provincial policies for the north. That ministry must work closely with the regional economic development councils to develop a well co-ordinated, long-term strategy for northern development. It should serve as a one-stop information and assistance base for northern communities.

If there is longer-term planning, it will have little effect unless northern communities are given a larger voice in how the resources of their areas are to be developed. Current decisions about our publicly owned resources are developed and left to the corporations, which have few long-term commitments to the community. That has been shown over the last few weeks by the comments of Canadian Pacific. Mr. Stinson, the president of that corporation, has indicated his company is too dependent on world commodities and is actually talking about disinvesting in northern Ontario and in this whole country, taking the wealth that has been generated by the resource industries it owns here and investing elsewhere. That is an indication of the lack of



commitment on the part of the corporate sector to northern development and to the economy of this province as a whole.

If we are going to give corporations access to our resources, the provincial government must be actively involved and must involve the communities that are affected. If they are not, it is almost impossible for the communities to plan ahead. It means little if wealth is to be produced and not channelled back into northern Ontario, if it is to come to southern Ontario.

The provincial government should be getting a better return on its resources and the northern communities should have a role in determining the nature of this return. If a corporation is to use the resources of northern Ontario, that corporation must be required to enter into planning agreements with the provincial government to get access to those resources. In developing those agreements, the local communities must have input and be involved in the negotiations.

These agreements should set out a corporation's five-year plan, which would be updated annually. The contents of these agreements must be flexible, but they could include subjects such as employment and training for local residents, opportunities for local business, provision of community facilities and reinvestment requirements. Obviously, there are going to be changes in the circumstances as the economy of the province and of the world changes. Therefore, the five-year plans must be flexible, but they should be updated on an annual basis, in consultation with the provincial government and the local community.

Each year the north produces \$3 billion worth of minerals and the raw materials for the \$7-billion forest industry. So far, very little of this has been reinvested in northern communities. As the president of Canadian Pacific has indicated, much of it has been invested outside this country, not even in southern Ontario. Northern development programs and funds have been established on a short-term basis by previous governments, but in our view there is a need for a permanent pool of capital to be reinvested in the north according to guidelines and priorities developed by the regional planning councils and the provincial government.

For many years, this party has advocated the development of a northern Ontario fund, which would be used to spur development in the north. This fund would be built up through using the revenues that accrue to the provincial government from the development of our resources. The fund could be dispersed on the basis of loans,

grants and direct joint ventures to help with regional, community and provincial development.

I believe, though, there is a greater role for the provincial government. As a major employer and a major provider and owner of our natural resources, the provincial government has a major role to play in diversifying and strengthening northern Ontario. One way it can do this is through diversification and decentralization of its own services.

The Minister of Northern Development and Mines has talked about the possibility of moving 1,000 civil service jobs into the north. I commend that, but I do not think it is enough. In other countries, we have seen a concerted effort at decentralization. That means not only moving jobs or expanding the civil service in the north, but also locating key policy personnel in the north so the policies and programs formulated by the staff of the government will have a solid understanding of northern Ontario.

The local offices could provide employment and stability to the communities and they would understand better the needs of northern Ontario if they were located in the north. I encourage the Minister of Northern Development and Mines to move quickly and to embark on a major initiative to decentralize government offices.

In our view, however, it should not be left at that. We should also move quickly to decentralize health care and educational institutions into the north. One of the major problems we have faced in northern Ontario for many years is the difficulty of attracting professionals to northern Ontario and of keeping them there once they come. We have had all sorts of subsidy programs, and they do not work. If young doctors, for instance, take advantage of the underserved areas program, in many cases they will come to a community and stay until their time is finished and then move on, sometimes to a larger centre in the north but more often to southern Ontario.

I do not believe money is the problem. The problem with attracting professionals to the north is that they feel isolated. They feel a long distance from the new developments in their fields and they do not have the cross-fertilization they might experience in a larger centre in southern Ontario where they would have contact with other people in their own and in related fields.

We are never going to have that until we have a major teaching facility located in northern Ontario. It is about time we moved, stopped



talking about the need for a teaching hospital in the north and actually established one. It is not enough for the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to state that there are too many doctors in this province. There may be too many doctors, but there is also a maldistribution of doctors, to use the term once used by the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell).

We do not have enough specialists in the north. We do not even have enough general practitioners. On top of that, we do not have enough therapists in related health fields, whether they be physiotherapists, audiologists or speech pathology specialists. I believe we need a major communications disorders centre in northern Ontario. If people from southern Ontario want to get into those kinds of institutions, they can come to the north. They will find they like it and they will find it is a great place to live. They will get married, settle down and practise in the north.

**5:50 p.m.**

I welcomed the announcement of a technology and science high school in northern Ontario, although I am sure it is going to take up the whole \$5 million announced for education in the north; but it is not enough to train secondary school students in science and technology in northern Ontario. If we have such a school related to the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, we should have one in the north. If that is it, if we are just training them so that after they graduate they leave and come to post-secondary educational institutions in southern Ontario, we will still be losing our youth. They will graduate, they will stay down and work there and will not contribute to the development of northern Ontario.

For that reason, it is imperative that this government move quickly to expand the funding for the existing universities in northern Ontario and to strengthen those universities to enable them to expand and widen their programs.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Is it a bad thing for northern kids to come to southern Ontario?

**Mr. Wildman:** No, it is not. It is useful for people to travel and to broaden their horizons, but if there are no opportunities for education in the north, fewer northerners, on a percentage basis, are going to take advantage of post-secondary education.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Then we are going to get some from here go up there, if that is the idea.

**Mr. Wildman:** That is right. I would like people from southern Ontario to expand their horizons and travel to the north to study there.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin):** Order. This is not a question period. Please keep going.

**Mr. Wildman:** Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer is provoking me.

**Mr. Martel:** Ask the Treasurer what they are going to work at in the north, which is the basic, underlying problem.

**The Acting Speaker::** Order.

**Mr. Wildman:** Mr. Speaker, they are interrupting.

In that regard, I will point out a couple of things. It does not make any sense to any northerner, whether Liberal, Conservative or New Democrat, for us to have the major forestry school in this province located right beside Queen's Park. There are a few trees out there in Queen's Park, I will admit, but they are hardwood. They are not coniferous trees and they are not spruce. It does not make any sense for it to be located here in Toronto. For that matter, it does not make a lot of sense for the major school of mines to be located at Queen's University in Kingston.

This government must take the bull by the horns and admit that we have the resources in the north, where forestry and mining are located, so the educational institutions related to training people for those industries and developing new technologies related to those industries must be located in the north.

In that regard, I believe this government must also develop a northern technological research and development institution in northern Ontario which would collect and develop technology suited to northern needs and make it accessible to northern communities, particularly small communities, so that we can develop secondary manufacturing and secondary industries related to our resources.

The proposals I have been making are not new. This party has made these proposals on many occasions. I admit they would not be easily implemented. If the government is going to suggest that there be a major decentralization of government offices in the north, a lot of civil servants will be upset; but once they get up there they will realize it is a good idea, just as it was in the federal sector when it was decided to locate the forestry research centre in Sault Ste. Marie. There were a lot of complaints from the well-educated scientists who did not want to move there. Now one cannot get them to move away.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Like the insect pathology lab?



**Mr. Wildman:** Yes, the insect pathology lab.

I will admit, too, that if we are going to move educational institutions, if we are going to develop a teaching hospital in the north, if we are going to have the training of medical therapists, if we are going to have the forestry school, the mining school and new technology institutes located in the north, the government is probably going to have a number of well-educated, well-trained people with a great deal of expertise who may not want to move there. But, by God, they are going to have to move there. This government has to take the bull by the horns and say: "We are committed to the north. We are prepared to treat northern Ontario differently. We are prepared to agree that the formula that applies in southern Ontario should not be applied in the north."

I make no apologies for making these suggestions. In northern Ontario, we have 800,000 people. We have about the same population as Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and far more people than Prince Edward Island, and every one of those provinces has major universities located within its boundaries, with major professional schools. If they can have it, we can have it. All that is needed is the political will to make it happen. I demand that this government moves in this area. Otherwise, we will have a different Ontario in the north, a declining Ontario, which will compare very poorly with what we have in the south. We have tremendous potential in the north. I plead with this government to recognize that potential and to develop it.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I would like to comment on the remarks made by the honourable member, which are extremely useful indeed. I was particularly struck by his thought, which is not a new one, but which was put with force and reasonableness, about the decentralization of government offices. Many of the objections he then used in response to his own demand are ones we and I am sure our predecessors heard as well.

I am familiar with the city of Sault Ste. Marie, whose population is about 80,000, if it is that much. If something permanent, God forbid, should happen to the steel industry or to Algoma's ability to respond competitively, or if Algoma should feel after careful economic research that the quality of the ore in the Helen mine—is it still the Helen mine?—is such that it cannot continue in spite of all the assistance it might be offered federally and provincially, then it is going to take more than a couple of relocated government offices and all the goodwill in the

world to maintain Sault Ste. Marie as a viable city. I welcome the comments of the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), other northerners and anybody else who has good ideas so that the members of the government can respond in a way that is valid.

The member knows about the allocations of public funds in the budget, but I just want to run through them quickly: \$10 million for health and transportation for the north; \$5 million for new education programs for the north, which may all be channelled into one northern school of science—in my view, a good idea; and an additional \$17 million in the northern development fund. We are returning to a 65 per cent processing allowance and we have announced plans for a new Mining Act, which we think will be very useful. We have quite a spectrum of additional programs that time does not permit me to list. These will assist but by no means answer the problem the member has put.

**Mr. Harris:** I too enjoyed the comments of the member for Algoma. With reference to the \$17-million figure that has been bandied about by many speakers in the debate and just alluded to by the Treasurer as new money put into the budget, I suggest that we heard a year ago in the previous budget it was one of these multi-year things—\$100 million over five years.

A little earlier today in response to one of the speakers, the Treasurer pooh-poohed the federal assistance—was it \$5.6 million?—for Sault Ste. Marie. He said: "But, of course, that is over six years. That is one of the multi-year things." We are looking at a budget that calls for a \$1-billion technology fund. It is really \$100 million a year over 10 years. We are hearing from the master at trying to stretch these things over a great number of years.

That bothers me, especially when we get into an example of it. We had a budget from this Treasurer last year in which he stated there would be \$100 million over five years. Most of us took that to mean \$20 million a year, but what happened in the first year? There was \$3 million spent in the first year; that is all. What happened in the second year? There was \$17 million spent; that reflects a \$3-million cut. We lost \$17 million from what he stated in the first year and we are losing another \$3 million in the second year; yet this Treasurer has the gall to get up and say what a wonderful new program this is.

**6 p.m.**

**Mr. Martel:** My colleague the member for Algoma said that once teachers got to the north, they would not leave. I tell my friend there was



one science teacher whom they ran out of Sault Ste. Marie. That is the rumour.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** No, I was there two years. If I had stayed another year, I would be there yet.

**Mr. Martel:** I was not sure if they had run the Treasurer out or if he had left on his own.

One thing that has always bothered me during my many years here is that there is never a forum for discussing the north in a serious way. The markets are here in the south. We from the north believe we have to plan, and we plan one year at a time in most budgets and so on. There has never been a committee with the capacity to put together how we might develop the north economically. We get a lot of civil servants, most of whom are from the south. They understand the south, know the south, and the north is the hinterland.

What bothers me living in the north and seeing the extraction of resources that are sent somewhere else and either processed or sent out semi-processed is the great belief that somehow free enterprise is going to develop the north. That is ludicrous when we look at the distance from markets, where those markets are, where the cash is and so on. What we need is a group that has a planning capacity. In West Germany, for example, if they want to place someone near the Russian border and that is risky, government and the private sector get together to do it.

Northern Ontario is not going to develop on its own because some free enterpriser goes there. They could have done that 100 years ago in Sudbury and they did not do it. One-industry towns, one after the other, have gone down the tube. We need somebody who looks at the situation and says, "We can use these resources in the north and develop them into finished commodities there."

**The Deputy Speaker:** Does any other honourable member wish to put questions or comments? The member for Algoma in his reply.

**Mr. Wildman:** I thank the members for their comments and questions. In regard to the comments made by the Treasurer, I do not think he was present at the beginning of my remarks when I did deal with what he raised. I recognized that there was no quick fix for the problems of northern Ontario, and I presented some ideas I thought this government should act upon. I still believe they are worthwhile proposals.

With regard to his comments about the money in the budget, I also dealt with that at the beginning of my remarks. I pointed out that other than the \$17 million, which is part of an already-announced program, there is \$5 million

for education in one high school, which I support; \$10 million for health and transportation, which is basically the medically necessary travel program; and part of \$25 million for adjustments in eastern and northern Ontario. That pales when we compare it with the one-year payroll that is being taken out of Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa with the announcement of 1,500 layoffs. That amounts to \$45 million annually.

I recognize we have major problems and it is not going to be easy, but I hope the minister and his government will look very carefully at the report of the Committee on Resource-Dependent Communities and at others that are making proposals and will agree that northern Ontario must be treated differently and must be made a special project of government.

I recognize that in the past the Treasurer has indicated on many occasions that he believes the legislators of this province should travel to the north to learn about the north. I hope his government will actually institute this policy about which he has talked for so long.

With regard to the comments of the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), it is quite true that the funding is not adequate. I agree with that completely, but I point out that when his government was in power, these problems were developing and it did not make any concerted effort to develop the north.

**Mr. Dean:** During the past two weeks, some of my colleagues have dealt with various anomalies and deficiencies in different parts of the budget, and I do not expect to repeat too many of the comments they have made. Accordingly, I will confine my remarks mainly to the social services aspect of the budget, not only the Ministry of Community and Social Services, but also the social policy field, health and education, with particular emphasis on the programs for seniors.

One of the things that is conspicuously lacking in the budget is any reference to the situation in Ontario with respect to the institutionalization of the elderly. We know and many members will realize that the PC party has embodied in its discussion paper, *Care For The Elderly*, many of the policies we have promoted over the years and on which we have been working. One of those is to rely less on complete institutionalization as a solution for the problem of care for the elderly in our society and to turn more and more to home and community care.

However, while that is being worked out, and we will have to see whether the present government will work it out, there is still the need



for care in institutions. One cannot stop everything right off the bat. Recognizing that situation, a little more than a year ago our government set forth as a policy pattern for us that we would establish 4,000 new nursing home beds in Ontario as soon as that was possible in 1985. Unfortunately, that did not happen because of the result of the rather peculiar actions of the other two parties in the Legislature following the election.

I gather the present government decided to review the whole matter of nursing homes and the allocation of beds and froze any other allocations. It has been a long winter, and that is still frozen. I do not know what the big delay is. Perhaps there is a good rationale for the government's continued failure to provide the kind of extra nursing home accommodation which is needed.

As I said earlier, this is only one of the ways to serve the elderly. All the members here could point to the number of elderly in their own communities who urgently need additional accommodation of this sort. In my area, it is well documented by our district health council that 150 additional nursing home beds are urgently needed. We know they are needed because, unlike some of the communities in Ontario, in Hamilton-Wentworth we have a very efficient, well-qualified assessment and placement centre which is able to determine where a given person will be best placed.

Apparently, the Treasurer and this government do not share the experience of many health care providers in Ontario, as described by one of them, a doctor, nurse or visiting homemaker. They are on the front line of the health care system when it comes to dealing with all kinds of needs, but particularly for my purposes at this moment with the care of the elderly. They must deal with them day after day, and deal with the angry and hostile families, as this person put it, who demand that the government provide the appropriate care for their aged parents and provide it now.

Perhaps in the dim, distant future we will be able to minimize this. I hope the present government will carry out the plans we had in mind. At the moment, there is a shortage that needs to be addressed.

The second aspect of care for the elderly relates to an announcement that was made in January 1986 by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and supported by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs, the member for London

North (Mr. Van Horne). This had to do with integrated home and community care. It was announced with considerable flourish. It was reannounced in the speech from the throne in April. It has been mentioned again in the budget, and we are still waiting to see if anything is going to happen. We have certainly had a plethora of announcements.

**6:10 p.m.**

The Minister without Portfolio for seniors' affairs spent a good bit of time last summer in that vacation ground called Ontario, both north and south, going around consulting about seniors' needs and possible policies, which I commend him for. However, a report was made and we were assured that it was going to be released soon. I think that was the word. "Soon" seems to be a favourite word of the present government.

It is rumoured, however, that it has run into heavy weather in the cabinet. We have not seen it yet. Who knows just what has happened to the result of this consultation which was to be a cornerstone of government policy in providing care for seniors. My own opinion is that the government and the minister are embarrassed by this failure to follow through on their promise.

Many members will recall that reached a height where the minister had to set up a planted question last week to allow him to give a feeble excuse for this continuing, apparently unending delay in coming out with a more complete plan of integrated home and community care. This was given lipservice in the budget, but we have to see something before we actually believe anything is going to happen there.

A few moments ago I referred to our Progressive Conservative discussion paper, *Care for the Elderly*. I also referred to the need for good placement and co-ordination services. In this document, we have strongly emphasized the need for this. It needs to be set up in every community where we need it—I guess that would be every one—to ensure the provision of appropriate services for the elderly and to eliminate any existing confusion and red tape surrounding the programs.

For example, we say there is a need. I hope the government is listening. There seems to be nobody here to do with the health or social policy fields from the cabinet or any parliamentary assistants, but we hope the news gets back to them. We should expand and refine home-based services such as homemakers, home care, home nursing, Meals on Wheels, shopping and bank transportation. Much of this is done on a volunteer basis in many of our communities now,



but we should be sure that it is done in every community in Ontario.

We should boost provincial support of those volunteer agencies. We should raise grants for the elderly persons' centres. We should increase the availability of respite care, enabling families to have elderly relatives cared for while relatives have a much-needed vacation. This provision for alternative community care will avoid what we now have as a reverse domino effect: where nursing home beds are not adequate, as I mentioned, and as a result, chronic care beds get filled with people who should be in nursing homes. If it backs up enough, acute care beds are filled with people who should be in chronic care facilities; so the logjam needs to be broken.

As far as respite care is concerned, this is especially important for people who are caring for patients with Alzheimer's disease. Many of us have heard—I heard very recently—tragic accounts of the burden and exhaustion that family members and other care givers experience when they do not have the opportunity for a respite from that very important but nevertheless demanding and tiring kind of care.

To turn to a positive side, there is reference made in the budget regarding capital funds for hospital development. We welcome that for all kinds of hospitals and health care centres. One that is very important for a portion of my riding and the adjoining areas is what is called St. Joseph's Ambulatory Care Centre. This is not a hospital but an innovative idea which has been brought to a very complete stage of planning. Now they are at the sketch plans stage.

What it needs from the government when that proposal is submitted is the endorsement of the approval that our government gave it in September 1984, and continuing to provide the green light for that to be developed as a substitute for a full-service hospital. It is an interesting program, which I will not go into in detail. I described it in my talk on the throne speech.

However, in the budget, in spite of some of the desirable things that were done and things we still need, there have been, regrettably, increases in taxes or decreases in exemptions. Taxes were increased by \$700 million in the last budget and the deficit by \$500 million, giving well over \$1 billion of extra taxation or extra reserve—room for movement anyway—by the government. In this budget, the deficit is only \$1,544,000,000 million, which is somewhat less, about \$85 million less. We think some of that extra cash money, the tax money that came through as a

bonus or windfall, should have been applied to the reduction of the deficit.

There is an increase in expenditure growth, which is inevitable when one plans to be everything to everybody. We think the expenditure growth of 7.4 per cent is so far above the actual increase in inflation that it is going to be hard to cool down if we ever want to come to grips with the deficit we have.

At the same time, we note that the estimates project an increase in the size of the public service, which is contrary to what happened during the previous administration. After a 10-year decline, there appears to be an increase of 1,450 civil servants above last year's level. I draw this to the attention of the Treasurer so he can be very cautious in continuing a further expansion of that.

I mention those matters of tax increases and government expenditure growth because one of the features I had in my constituency newsletter, besides asking certain questions, was a place for any other questions. Mainly, the comments I got there were things such as this, "I get the feeling that I am employed by my school board and the government because of the tax levels."

Another resident said, "There is too much government." Another said, "I feel the cost of government is much too high and the elected officials or government intrudes too much in areas where they should not be." I do not consider my riding to be a very right wing, Genghis Khan type of place, but this is the kind of feeling expressed by well-balanced people concerned about the community.

To continue, another resident said: "Taxes are always rising. It is the government's answer to everything." Another person said: "We want lower taxes. The middle class is taxed too high." Finally, someone said: "I am very disappointed in the government's methods of revenue. They should be eliminating government spending." I could go on with more of those, but I will not continue too much longer.

The very last item I wish to draw to the attention of the Treasurer and the government is one I have mentioned before. I admit it is parochial, but once in a while we have to look at our own backyard.

**Mr. Wildman:** Especially when one has to get re-elected.

**Mr. Dean:** That is good. Someone says it is a good thing to pay attention to one's riding.

The former government promised to extend GO Transit to the Burlington-Hamilton area.



**Mr. Cureatz:** And to Oshawa, I might add.

**Mr. Dean:** And to Oshawa. I know it has been well spoken of by the people from that area. For the west end, an extension of better service was promised by the previous government. Since the present administration has taken over, there seems to have been no progress in construction and no commitment whatsoever in this budget.

**6:20 p.m.**

I am a little nervous about that, because we really need this, not only in the Oshawa area, as the member for Durham East reminded me, but also in the Hamilton-Burlington area. Is the government abandoning this commitment to additional adequate service to Burlington and Hamilton-Wentworth? If not, why is something not said about it? The latest information I have is that there has been no initiative by the province and there has been foot-dragging even when municipalities have pressed the government for action. Shame on the Liberals.

The facts of life on the Queen Elizabeth Way, Mr. Speaker, which you may not travel too often, are that even in off-peak times, traffic is so heavy that it is no treat driving there. That has no way to go but up as development occurs, especially in the area nearer Toronto. The best way to eliminate the buildup of that traffic is to increase the GO Transit service to the areas of Hamilton-Wentworth which need it so much. I would use it myself if it was frequent and I could be sure it was going to get me here on time. That is a system on which the government needs to put more time and commitment, because there is no doubt that the GO Transit service has been one of the real successes the government has developed over the years, and it should be encouraged to expand.

I hope I have not seemed too negative. I know the Treasurer has done his best, according to his lights, in allocating the resources of the province in this budget. We think the suggestions we have been making, and I feel particularly the ones I have made in the last few minutes, are worthy of consideration and perhaps of amending some of his budget proposals.

**Mr. Breagh:** The impassioned speech by the member is worthy of a short intervention. He must have a little trouble with coming to grips with what we know as the reality of May 2; that is, he is no longer in the government.

A couple of points in his speech are worth noting. One is that in the transition from the government to the opposition side of the House, members of his party seem to have acquired a whole new social conscience, which I welcome. For a long time on matters of child care and care

for the elderly, the previous government was pummelled regularly in this Legislature for not doing anything. Now that they are on this side, they seem at least to be taking advantage of the opportunity to do a little pummelling of their own. If their track record was a little better, their credibility would stand up a bit better.

When the member made reference to GO Transit, that tweaked a little response, because in our area the GO Transit operation is a matter of considerable discussion as well. He seems to have forgotten that it was his government that cancelled the light rail proposal to the eastern part of the city. I can understand why he makes a plea for GO Transit to the west, because I believe it is needed as well; but he seems to have forgotten somehow that while he was in the government, it cancelled the GO advanced light rail transit scheme. I thought we would give him an opportunity to refresh his memory a touch as we close off the day.

**Mr. Cureatz:** I listened to the honourable member's excellent speech. I would like to centre in on those issues involving the GO Transit extension, both east and west of Toronto. The member aptly put forward his concerns about what is taking place on the Queen Elizabeth Way. I want to bring that to the attention of all members in the House, and I am very confident that those members who are not in attendance will be reading Hansard later tonight to inform themselves about some of the stimulating debate that has taken place here this afternoon.

I want to add to the member's thoughtfulness in recognition of the problems of GO Transit. I remind the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) that indeed there were some difficulties with stopping the light rail system and converting to the heavy rail system east of Pickering to Oshawa. Our previous Minister of Transportation and Communications, the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague), indicated that with this conversion, we were still very confident the heavy rail system would be in place. The member for Oshawa will recognize that now we have some difficulty with those nasty Liberals over there, because the road that has been completed has gone as far as Brock Street in Whitby, but after that, nothing is happening. People drive up and down Highway 401 continually and they see the road bed, but no track is being laid—not one rail.

I feel a little sorry for the member for Oshawa, who is obviously today an apologist for the government—and I have never seen him give that



kind of performance before—trying to explain away why the GO rail system has not only not come to Whitby, but not even made an appearance. One cannot even see the smoke of the diesel engines coming towards Oshawa. If the member for Oshawa and I could at least come to an agreement that we should be a little more critical of the Liberal administration, we might get that GO train to Oshawa.

**Mr. Harris:** I want to join in complimenting the honourable member for his remarks made today on the budget. I share his concern with the overspending we have seen in this Trudeau-MacEachen type of budget, whereby the more money one gets in, the more one spends. When the good times roll, one spends the bejabbers out of them. Then when one gets into a few problems, one has a massive deficit problem that is even greater. I enjoyed the member's remarks, which he put very succinctly. I am pleased to associate myself with his remarks. When the budget debate resumes, I will be making some lengthy comments in the same direction.

I also want to speak briefly to the member for Oshawa, who was quick to make some comments on my honourable colleague's speech. I got to my feet to respond to the member for Oshawa a couple of days ago when he was not in the Legislature. It was determined that was not an appropriate time because he was not here; now is even more appropriate because he is here and he cannot respond because he has already spoken.

During his remarks, the member complimented the government on making some move on Ontario health insurance plan premiums. He slammed the government and said it did not do anything it said it was going to do—it was going to wipe out OHIP premiums, or start to phase them out—but he complimented the government on exempting some 35,000 more people from OHIP premiums. The big charade comes on page 51 where it says in 1985-86 OHIP premiums totalling \$1.622 billion were raised and the budget proposes to raise \$1.653 billion, or \$31 million more.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. Harris:** Obviously, more people will be paying OHIP premiums.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. Dean:** I want to reply to the little needling my friend the member for Oshawa gave me concerning GO Transit. I know he and I agree it is a good system. Whether it is done by GO-ALRT or by conventional rail, it is still very

desirable and fills a need we cannot fully meet without some kind of nonhighway system.

I do not want to go into details, because I think the member for Oshawa knows them as well as I do. Certainly, the member for Durham East commented very graciously on the content of the speech. As we understand it, the difference between the two systems is that GO Transit is likely to come more quickly by conventional rail than it is by GO-ALRT. The point I was trying to make is that the present government does not seem to be doing anything with either system. I do not know what it is doing.

Briefly, the other thing I want to say to the member for Oshawa is that I do not take a backseat to anybody in having a social concern for the people of my community or my province. In the position I held for a time, I was well aware of all the different social programs the government of the day was doing and enlarging, which this government would do well to emulate.

On motion by Mr. Harris, the debate was adjourned.

**6:30 p.m.**

**The Deputy Speaker:** Pursuant to provisional standing order 30, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made. The member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) has given notice of dissatisfaction with the answer to a question given by the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes). The member has up to five minutes to debate the matter and the minister may reply for up to five minutes.

#### ONTARIO HUMANE SOCIETY

**Ms. Bryden:** Yesterday I asked the Solicitor General why he was putting the welfare of farm animals in Ontario in jeopardy by his stubborn refusal to meet with the officials of the Ontario Humane Society to work out a purchase-of-service agreement in order to meet the minister's responsibility for enforcing the sections of the Criminal Code that concern cruelty to animals.

I have had reports that the Ontario Provincial Police have received complaints of serious abuse of animals but have not been able to deal with them adequately because of a lack of resources to hire veterinarians and a lack of facilities for housing and feeding abused animals. The OPP has called on the humane society to assist, but the society has been unable to respond adequately because it was forced to withdraw the services of its regional agents and its two inspectors on April 1 as a result of a lack of funds.

In the past year, the society has received only \$85,000 for its Criminal Code work. This is



actually a cutback of \$40,000 from the \$125,000 granted in 1984-85 by the previous government. Both amounts are grossly below the real needs. The society has received nothing for this fiscal year, but has formally requested \$410,118 and has documented this amount by showing how it would be spent. The Price Waterhouse report, which chose the society as the best agency for carrying out the responsibility of enforcing the Criminal Code sections, estimated that up to \$500,000 would be needed by the society to implement the report's recommendations for additional staff and training courses for inspectors and agents.

The Solicitor General replied yesterday that he had met with the society and had invited the society "to come back to negotiate to seek to redress to what it considers to be its funding problem." I was not satisfied with the minister's reply, because I have a letter from the president of the Ontario Humane Society, dated May 22, saying categorically: "We have had no negotiations, we have not heard directly from the minister himself in any form; and we are receiving calls from the police, who say they cannot do the work and are asking for our help. We have received calls from the Durham Regional Police, the OPP in Woodstock, the York Regional Police and the Sudbury Regional Police in recent days, asking for assistance in dealing with animals in need of assistance."

This information is directly opposed to what the minister told me yesterday. It also documents that the OPP is not able to do the job of enforcing the Criminal Code sections on cruelty to animals. The minister has made excuses for his inaction in carrying out this serious responsibility of his ministry by saying the Ontario Humane Society has not made a formal application for funding. I point out to the minister that the president of the Ontario Humane Society, Mr. T. Hughes, sent him a letter and a telegram on August 1, 1985, soon after he took office, telling him that the society would have to lay off all senior inspectors and a number of agents who do the work of the society in rural areas if the society did not receive its 1985-86 grant.

He followed this up with a letter on August 13, 1985, in a special edition of the society's magazine, *Animal Action*, which quoted all these communications and was headlined with the word "Crisis" in two-inch letters. This was circulated to all members of the Legislature. On April 30, 1986, the minister claimed in the House that it had not been sent to his office. It seems to

me that he is not seeing the relevant documents that are being produced by the society.

It seems the minister's excuse of no application is, therefore, a bureaucratic quibble to hide his refusal to sit down with the society and work out a mutually satisfactory purchase-of-service agreement.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Your time has expired.

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** It gives me great pleasure tonight to be able to have this time in the House, five minutes, to comment on this issue when no one is about. I suppose we could ring the bells for a quorum, but I am not going to ask for a quorum call for that type of thing.

**Mr. Wildman:** It is never done at this time.

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** It is never done at this time. I thank the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman). Normally, in question period one has one to two minutes to give an answer and I consider that quite often not an opportune time and rather inadequate.

**Mr. Wildman:** Make a statement tomorrow in the House.

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** There is no need for a statement; we can make a statement right now in five minutes.

I am extremely pleased to respond, because I grew up in a rural area, I know what it is to farm and I know a fair amount about the operation of farming, cattle and the rest of it. I also know some of the concerns farmers of this province have had with regard to the whole aspect of law enforcement with regard to animals by the society. That is not my point, because I do offer strong support for the society, the work it has done in the past years, the many accomplishments by its president, Mr. Hughes, who has been with it literally a lifetime—I think it is 35 years he has worked there, and he has brought it along the way a great deal from where it originally started—and for the volunteers and many of those who work on behalf of the animals that are in the society.

The problem that has developed is one we must look at in context. We are dealing with a private organization. It is most important when we deal with private organizations which seek funding from us that we be sure the funds we advance are used for the specific purposes we contract to have done. Perhaps one of the problems is that this has not been a fee-for-service arrangement. I suggest, as we are looking at it in the ministry, perhaps the way we are going to have to go is on a fee-for-service basis.



I checked with the commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police and I am very interested in the areas—I will get them from Hansard—where the honourable member mentioned there are problems. I was told by my officials there have been no reports from our officers on duty of any problems in enforcing any calls they have had to date. The other information is different, and I will be happy to check out those areas when I get back from the House.

With regard to a cutback, it is improper to call it a cutback; \$85,000 is the amount they were given previously. An additional \$40,000 was given a year or two ago for specific purposes, and those specific purposes were to hire a chief inspector and to work towards training. The inspector was hired but after a very brief period was laid off. We must be fiscally responsible.

**Ms. Bryden:** There was no money.

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** We gave \$40,000 to hire a chief inspector. Do not tell me that will not hire a chief inspector. We have a lot of people working for much less than that, even right here in this building. What we want to do, and what we have asked and encouraged the society, namely, Mr. Hughes, to do is to come and sit down and work to develop a five-year plan of reaching the goals set out in the Price Waterhouse report, and advance the appropriate money. The analogy is much like building a house. One does not provide a builder with the full funds of the cost of that house before he starts to build. They build, and as they put in the foundation, the roof and

something else, one advances the money to do it. That is the best analogy to what we are looking at here.

We invited Mr. Hughes and members of the society to come in to meet with my staff. They met on February 4. It was a very long meeting between the Deputy Solicitor General and the president, who is also the executive director of the society. We received yesterday, by hand delivery at four o'clock, a letter which said they would reject out of hand the idea of the \$40,000 for this year, because they feel they will not take any money rather than simply a beginning. We have asked them to come and work with our officials to make that planned progress towards those goals.

We are looking very seriously to determine a much more succinct type of fee-for-service arrangement with this private society than simply handing out sums of money. On Friday we received the request for \$410,000 to up to \$447,000 and one single page which simply lists dollars down the side as the full and only justification for \$447,000. That was totally inadequate from my officials' point of view of being fiscally responsible.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Your time has expired.

There being no further matter to debate, I deem the motion to adjourn to be carried.

The House adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



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# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**  
Wednesday, May 28, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC





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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, May 28, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## STANDING ORDERS

**Mr. Speaker:** Yesterday the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) made the novel suggestion that in the 10 minutes provided for comments on ministry statements members might comment on statements made on previous days.

Apart from the fact that I am informed that the discussions leading to these provisional changes in the standing orders made the intention quite clear, I find it hard to see how a routine proceeding for a specific day—statements by the ministry and responses—could mean anything other than responses to those statements made on that day. I suggest that standing order 28(e) makes this even clearer. It says, "Following ministerial statements a representative or representatives of each of the recognized opposition parties in the House may comment for up to a total of five minutes for each party." The word "comment" obviously relates back to the statements referred to in the first line.

As this is an entirely new procedure, there are no precedents to guide me, but on what I consider to be the clear import of the standing order in question, I must rule that comments may be made only on the statements of the day.

**Mr. Gillies:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, speaking to the point just made, if I may—

**Mr. Speaker:** I remind the member, according to the standing orders, once a decision is made by the Speaker, there is no further debate or discussion.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

**Mr. Rowe:** I rise today to bring to this government's attention the ongoing problem that direct care workers in psychiatric hospitals and centres for the developmentally handicapped are experiencing. These workers are upset over poor working conditions in provincial facilities, staff shortages, high levels of assault on staff by clients and inadequate on-the-job training.

On May 12, my colleague the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) asked the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Ms. Caplan) what she was doing to settle a contract. Her response was "...we are negotiating actively...and today I am cautiously optimistic." Cautiously optimistic has not solved this dispute as we witnessed today with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union protesting at noon in the park.

Cautiously optimistic has not solved the problems of Oxford Regional Centre where the kitchen facilities are inadequate and fire alarms were missing. This is particularly urgent in the light of the deaths at the centre last year caused by a salmonella epidemic. My colleague the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven) brought this to the attention of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) in a letter dated April 21. To date, he has not received a response.

My 12 colleagues who have psychiatric hospitals and centres for the developmentally handicapped in their ridings are not cautiously optimistic. They want action from this government to solve this issue. Why will the minister not get down to work and solve this dispute now?

## GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Wildman:** As members of this House know, gasoline prices in northern Ontario have been higher for many years than they are in southern Ontario. Even in large northern communities, gasoline costs are at least approximately eight to 10 cents more per litre.

Yesterday, in answer to a previous question from me, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) provided a list of dates and northern locations for so-called public forums on the north-south gasoline price issue. I then asked the minister to inform the House of the name or names of the hearing officer or officers and the terms of reference for the task force, if that is what it is.

I must confess I am mystified that the minister could not answer my question, nor could he give a commitment that the provincial government was going to take action to lower gasoline prices in the north. All the minister could do was to compliment me on fighting this issue in the



House over the years and to invite me to participate in the forums.

It is inconceivable that the minister knows the dates and locations of the hearings, but not who is holding the hearings or the terms of reference of that work. It appears to me that this government is not taking seriously its commitment in the accord to investigate northern gasoline price differentials over southern Ontario and that it has no real commitment to do anything about gasoline prices in northern Ontario. This seems to be more of a charade than anything else.

#### PROCESSING PLANT

**Mr. Bossy:** I wish to express my deep concern over the plans to resurrect a tomato paste plant in St. Thomas by a co-operative of tobacco farmers who are being encouraged by the Honourable John Wise, federal Minister of Agriculture, who represents the riding of Elgin.

This government is being forced into funding a dead horse to protect the political interests of the minister. The tomato paste industry is already in dire straits. What hope can there be for a small co-operative of tobacco farmers who will invest their savings in an industry that is doomed to failure?

The solution would be to impose countervailing duties on foreign imports. The tribunal assessed that there had been dumping by Italy and Spain. If these imports were curtailed, we might have a chance to protect an already suffering industry. It is totally unreasonable for the federal government to put the provincial minister in a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" position.

Tomato producers in Kent county are very opposed to the government's plan to fund a company that would be in direct competition with the few survivors, who already have experienced declining acreage and who are losing their contracts with the processors. Only last fall, Libby McNeill and Libby announced the loss of hundreds of jobs directly related to this industry.

Therefore, I cannot understand how the federal Minister of Agriculture can justify encouraging the farmers of Elgin, when the federal government is not prepared to protect the already suffering tomato industry in this country.

#### PRISON FACILITIES

**Mr. Gordon:** I find it passing strange that a government of no walls and no barriers sneaks up to Sudbury and holds a secret meeting of a few notable municipal worthies, a few select resi-

dents, and proposes to put a wall 20 feet high in one of the most prized residential areas in Sudbury. A 20-foot wall to surround what? The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services was a trifle confused trying to explain, as the Sudbury Star relates:

"It will be a treatment centre, a secure institution. You will have prisoners who will not be able to leave, but it is not like a prison. It is more like a hospital, but secure. It is not being built by the Ministry of Health, like other hospitals, but by Correctional Services."

We in Sudbury are not ungrateful. While we welcome a project that means desperately needed jobs, the residents of the proposed area are deeply angered and upset. Why was a secret meeting, not a public meeting, held? With at least three other truly appropriate sites for such a facility, such as Cecil Facer School, Burwash or the Falconbridge radar base, why was such an inappropriate residential site chosen.

I repeat that we want the jobs and the facility, but we want no secret meetings behind closed doors by invitation only. We want honesty. We want to shape our community wisely. We do not want to be told that we either take this facility in this residential area or there will not be a facility in Sudbury. That, gentlemen, is unmitigated gall. Such behaviour by the government is building more than 20-foot prison walls in Sudbury. They should get their people up there to talk about it.

#### ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Mr. Warner:** Today is Armenian Independence Day. I wish to read a statement that goes back to 1918 and still reflects today the aspirations of the Armenian people:

"Yes, our republic is small and its bounds are narrow. It is deprived of its best lands and there is not enough room for all the people. It seems as if conditions are lacking for its independent existence, but I feel that the boundaries of a state cannot remain inflexible for ever. I believe that our borders will spread with the iron force of life, with defence of our just and indisputable rights concerning the occupied lands and, with a new treaty of friendship with Turkey and its allied governments. We have chosen the path of mutual agreement and peace, and we would like to believe that we are not mistaken in this."

The Armenian people suffered immense atrocities. They suffered a holocaust, which should never be forgotten. The Armenian people have a just cause. They deserve justice and they deserve fair treatment by our government and by the



United Nations. We could do nothing less than to offer them our support. On Armenian Independence Day, I hope that all of us can join in pledging our support so that the cause of Armenian freedom will never be forgotten.

**Hon. Mr. Ruprecht:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry, I cannot recognize a minister during members' statements.

#### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Haggerty:** I would like to comment on a potential impact that the current free trade negotiations will have on our car-carrier industry.

The Ontario trucking industry is among the best in the world and plays a major role in the distribution of new cars throughout the province. However, even though the range and sophistication of equipment operated by this industry are comparable or superior to that of the United States counterpart, Canadian carriers will be at a tremendous disadvantage if forced to compete directly with American companies such as Ryder and Leaseways.

The car-carrier industry in Ontario is dependent upon the international movement of cars for more than 63 per cent of its revenue. This source of income would no longer exist under free trade. This situation will have a direct impact on my riding, as the Ontario car-carrier industry maintains a distribution terminal in the town of Fort Erie. This terminal could very well become obsolete if the Canadian trucking industry is not protected from American competition.

The federal government should take active measures to ensure that Ontario service industries in general and the Ontario car-carrier industry in particular are not adversely affected by free trade. Furthermore, in view of the recent actions by the US in imposing a 35 per cent tariff on one sector, the British Columbia forest industry, this province should continue to approach the subject of free trade with extreme caution.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for Sarnia, 30 seconds.

**Mr. Brandt:** In the light of the time, I will stand down my statement till another day. That will give me adequate time to read the statement that I wish to read into the record.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member for High Park-Swansea for 13 seconds.

**Mr. Shymko:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order on the Armenian situation: Since the minister wanted to make a statement on this,

would you consider that as a ministerial statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**2:14 p.m.**

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

##### RACE RELATIONS

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Today I am pleased to declare for Ontario the second United Nations Decade for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

In joining in this worldwide effort, our province takes on a challenge that was set forth by the UN when it called upon all nations to "intensify and extend their efforts to ensure the rapid eradication of racism and racial discrimination." That is a challenge Ontarians are proud to accept. We are privileged to live in a highly diverse, multicultural society. The Ontario family tree has roots in every part of the world. Our diversity strengthens our society and brightens our future.

But no community is perfect. We still have much to do to ensure that Ontario provides for all in the future what it has provided for so many in the past: a vision of opportunity. That is why my government is proud to set forth today a clear, unmistakable statement of the principles that will guide us to that vision, the Ontario policy on race relations.

This policy recognizes that Ontario's commitment to equality has grown from benign approval to active support. It leaves no doubt that the path we will follow to full racial harmony and equal opportunity is paved, not just with good wishes and best intentions but with concrete plans and active measures.

These measures go beyond an attack on overt cases of racism. They carry forward a commitment to eliminate practices that have a discriminatory impact on minorities. They also set a tone, a tone of harmony. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) will advise the House today of some of the specific measures my government has developed to ensure the fullest and fairest degree of opportunity in this province.

These measures will benefit two groups of Ontarians, those who are members of racial minorities and those who are not, because when one promotes understanding and goodwill and encourages all in the province to make the fullest use of their abilities, every single Ontarian benefits.

These principles enjoy support on both sides of this aisle and so, I am sure, will the policies on which they are based.



**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I apologize to the House and ask its indulgence. This statement is a little longer than I would normally want, but it deals with a number of initiatives.

It has been my honour over the past 11 months to lead an active and vigorous cabinet committee on race relations. I believe my colleagues and I have made substantial progress in the development of specific, practical and useful initiatives to promote and ensure good race relations in Ontario.

The policy just announced by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is a bolder, more imaginative and more wide-ranging commitment than has thus far been made by any other government in Canada. It is deliberately bold. We are prepared to confront the difficult and sensitive issues in the race relations field and to exercise active and effective leadership.

To encourage others to follow this lead, the policy statement will be widely distributed. Within the next weeks and months, copies will be displayed prominently in government offices, schools and other public places across the province and copies in pamphlet form will also be made available to the public.

I now wish to advise the House of some of the specific policies this government will implement in the area of race relations.

First, let me turn to the tragic situation of minority youth unemployment. Study after study has told us that minority youth suffer more severely from unemployment than any other group in society.

**Mr. O'Connor:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: We do not seem to have received any copies of the statement on this side of the House.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** It was sent to the office of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) and the leader of the New Democratic Party 20 minutes ago. We can get a copy to the Conservatives.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the wish of the House to wait until those copies are deposited with the members? Is it the wish of the House to proceed?

**Ms. Gigantes:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I think the confusion is arising because it is not clear why our honourable colleague is making this statement. Is he making the statement because he is the Attorney General, is he making it because he is the minister responsible for women's issues or the minister responsible for native affairs, or is he making it because he is chairman of a cabinet committee?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** All three.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there copies?

**Mr. Gillies:** Mr. Speaker, I think part of the confusion here is that a copy was indeed sent to our leader's office, but to date our critic for the Attorney General, our critic for Housing, our critic for women's issues and any number of other critics affected by the statement do not have it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Once again, I will ask the House, do you wish the Attorney General to continue? Agreed.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I apologize. We made certain assumptions about the leadership of the party opposite and assumed that delivery to the leader's office would see that it was extended to whomever required it.

Let me begin at the beginning.

First, let me turn to the tragic situation of minority youth unemployment. Study after study has told us that minority youth suffers more severely from unemployment than does any other group in society. It is clear to this government that we cannot simply stand by and watch a whole generation of minority youth lose its opportunity for full participation in Ontario society.

**2:20 p.m.**

True equality means treating the similarly situated similarly. It also means responding to the special needs of various groups. It is not sufficient simply to make programs equally available to all groups. Where the facts demonstrate particular disadvantage, special initiatives must be taken. Accordingly, the government of Ontario has determined that all of its own youth employment and employment training programs and all of its youth employment and employment training initiatives with the private sector should contain specific strategies, goals and timetables to address the special employment barriers faced by racial minority youth. Further, the participation rates of racial minority youth in all such programs will be monitored to ensure compliance with this policy.

To implement this commitment, a broadly based training access policy will address problems associated with institutional, financial and other potential barriers. Data collection and monitoring systems will be developed, appropriate to youth programming, and other more general programs that benefit young people. This data will be used as a reference point to measure our overall effectiveness.

Guidelines developed in the light of research and evaluation will be shared with employers, as



well as program deliverers, through special outreach efforts. Specific elements of the strategy will be announced, while results of the monitoring and review will be made available at the end of this year.

Next, I am pleased to announce that the government has recognized and responded to the particular needs of visible minority women. Representatives of minority women have demonstrated compellingly that they often face a double burden. They are discriminated against because of both sex and race. Their difficulties cannot be effectively addressed by programs directed only to women, nor can they be effectively addressed by programs addressed only to racial minorities.

Accordingly, the government has determined that all programs which address the needs of racial minorities should be required to take into account the unique situation of racial minority women. Further, the Ontario women's directorate will deal with racial minority women—

**Mr. Andrewes:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: We find the text of the Attorney General's statement that was given to us is not consistent with the one he is reading.

**Mr. Gillies:** We made certain assumptions about the Attorney General's office.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I cannot believe it.

**Mr. Brandt:** It is true.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** Would you like to tell me—

**Mr. Gillies:** I could read the Attorney General's statement back to him if he would like.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** If the House wants to hear the policies of the government that are designed to deal with racial minorities, it can hear them. Do I have the permission of the House to proceed or do I not?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I will go back to the standing orders, which say the minister shall distribute two copies to the leaders of the parties or their representatives prior to the statement. I gather that has been done.

**Mr. Andrewes:** The statement we have is not the one the Attorney General is reading.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I will see that copies are in the leader's office again, and we will deal with the matter tomorrow, if your honour pleases.

**Mr. McClellan:** As far as we are concerned, we have a copy of the statement the Attorney General is reading and we would like to hear the rest of it.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will ask the House again, do you wish the Attorney General to continue? Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** More.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** The Ontario women's directorate will deal with racial minority women as a specific target group, and the race relations division of the Ontario Human Rights Commission will do the same. Both will designate staff members to be responsible for ensuring ongoing consultation with minority women and the development of policies and plans affecting them.

I am also pleased to announce that cabinet has agreed to ensure that qualified members of racial minorities are fully represented on the government's agencies, boards and commissions. Further, the Ministry of Housing will be implementing an active race relations program in public housing in Metropolitan Toronto. Matters such as racial incidents and tensions are by no means unique to public housing, but being a responsible landlord, the government intends to take all appropriate measures to remedy the problem in this area.

Central to the implementation of a plan of action will be the hiring of a director of race relations policies and programs for the Metro Toronto Housing Authority. Moreover, cabinet has approved more than 20 specific recommendations to ensure a harmonious racial climate in public housing. I will not take the time of the House to review them now, but the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) will announce the details within the next few weeks.

The initiative announced on May 7 by the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) also forms part of our first race relations initiative. Working with the co-operation of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and the approval of the human rights commission, the government is conducting a census of the current employment situation of all groups in the government, including racial minorities. This will allow us to determine the extent and location of the need for specific employment equity initiatives in the future. As announced, the census, under the leadership of the Chairman of Management Board, will be conducted in June and the results will be available in September.

At the same time, work has begun on a study of whether there are barriers to the recruitment and advancement of racial minorities in the public service. This is another part of the planning for employment equity. It will tell us where further and better specific programs are required to ensure that equality of opportunity is a reality for minorities in the Ontario public service.



My colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) will continue to offer programs and services that respond to the diverse needs of our multicultural communities. During the past 11 months, many individuals and groups have received a sensitive audience that allows for open dialogue, discussion and action. The minister is currently conducting a series of think tanks with multicultural groups to obtain a better understanding of ways in which sensitivities, including race relations sensitivities, can be addressed. In the course of such meetings, the need for the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture to continue and increase its advocacy role within and across the ministries has been articulated.

The initiatives I have announced today, I believe, testify to the government's continuing commitment to intensify its efforts in the struggle against racism. This government continues to work actively on additional initiatives. I would be grateful for the help of honourable members in that regard, including important measures pertaining to education, access to professions and trades and access to government services.

Announcements on these matters, as well as further details on the programs I have highlighted, will be made in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank members of the House.

**Mr. Grossman:** First, in response to the statement by the Attorney General, I want to say that he should not be sarcastic or arrogant in making accusations about assumptions he made about the leader's office on this side. We on this side made certain assumptions about his following traditions in this House and the rules of procedure. He violated them twice this afternoon on an important matter. That was followed up once again by the auxiliary Minister of Citizenship and Culture, the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), not being able to provide us with a statement 20 minutes ago about the Armenian circumstance, but the Attorney General was able to do it on a much more significant matter at two o'clock.

I want to speak to the substance of the statement made by the Attorney General—

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have been in the House for nine months, and I want to apologize to your honour and to my colleagues in the House if I have in any way breached the rules or the orders of the House and the decorum that is expected of members. That was not my intention, and I apologize.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General rose at four minutes and seven seconds. I respectfully request that the time be added.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is correct.

**Mr. Grossman:** The Attorney General is quite appropriately seeking all-party support for these initiatives and for the statement made by the Premier with regard to the United Nations decade. The Premier will get that support for the United Nations declaration. However, in the spirit of all-party support, I must say it was most improper and unfair for the Attorney General not to take a moment in his statement to point out that the cabinet committee on race relations, also a very bold step, was established several years ago by his predecessor, Roy McMurtry, leading to any initiatives now able to be taken. It is unfortunate he could not have got that in his original statement.

Second, I have read the document the Attorney General proposes to display in all the schools. I anticipate it will be signed by the Premier and perhaps by the Attorney General, by the member for Parkdale and by the Minister of Citizenship and Culture. Having read it, I think it steps far beyond the bounds of anything appropriate or proper for posting in the schools and other public institutions in promulgating politically based circumstances. It goes ahead and promises that his government will do A, B, C and D. It does not set out a series of principles that all people in Ontario should follow. It does not commit the people of Ontario to anything specific. It says, "The Premier promises appointments to agencies, boards and commissions." That is a disgraceful thing for the Attorney General to be putting in schools, wrapped in the flag, as he is trying to do, as his initiative on the subject of race relations.

Finally, the Attorney General ought to be hanging his head in shame when he looks back and realizes this is in part an implementation of the infamous document of the Minister of Citizenship and Culture outlining the government's strategy for multiculturalism. He can find it indicated in three or four of these headings. If this is the way he handles race relations, that is, to follow the guideline prepared for the minister, a scandalous piece which she is trying to dissociate herself from, and he endorses it by his statement today, then he should be hanging his head and not patting himself on the back.

**Mr. Gillies:** I also want to speak to the statement made by the Attorney General and the various texts of it floating around this chamber. I say to the minister that while the lofty sentiments he has expressed on behalf of the government are easily supportable by all members of this chamber in what I believe is our united desire to



stamp out racism in this province and everywhere else, his statement is so entirely lacking in substance and in demonstrable commitment that it leaves us somewhat mystified.

If the minister really cared about a commitment to minority youth and the rate of unemployment they face, his government would not have flat-lined youth employment spending this year in the way it did. If his government really wanted to make a commitment towards minority housing, his government would get its act together on its assured housing policy and bring it forward. If his government really wanted to make a commitment to minority women and their employment circumstances, his government would have accepted the recommendations of the combined opposition to bring in a meaningful pay equity package and not the parsimonious one it has.

I say to the minister that we cannot disagree with his sentiments, but we are looking for the substance.

**Mr. Rae:** I want to respond to the comments of the Premier and the Attorney General this afternoon. I do not think there is any question that all members of this House share a common commitment to a multiracial Ontario and a common commitment to our job of eliminating the scourge of racism, the scourge of discrimination and the special kind of personal pain and hurt that racial hatred and discrimination always pose.

I think of the kind of hopelessness that I know affects many of the young kids in the housing projects in my constituency. They come into my office looking for jobs and faced with the problem of people saying they need experience when they do not have experience. Many of them have dropped out of school too young. The school system has not served them or their needs well. This is something we have to fight.

I dearly wish the government today had given us the tools with which to fight, but it has not done so. The Attorney General and the Premier today have chosen to give us words in what I can only assume was a very hastily concocted decision to make an announcement today. There is scarcely any new initiative announced that actually involves the expenditure of public money or a change of policy. In the time remaining I want to establish that clearly for the record, because we have to see it.

What precisely has the Attorney General said? He stated the government wanted to do something about minority youth employment. All he said was that "programs should contain"—and he said "should contain," not "will contain"—

"specific strategies, goals and timetables to address the special employment barrier faced by racial minority youth." I do not read that as a program.

He said the Ontario Human Rights Commission is going to "designate staff members to be responsible for ensuring ongoing consultation with minority women." We are experienced enough in this House to know weasel words when we hear them. We all know "ongoing consultation" means precisely nothing in terms of hard programs. He also said cabinet is going to appoint qualified members of minorities to agencies, boards and commissions. That has been established as government policy for a long time. I am delighted to hear the Attorney General saying it is going to continue.

With respect to housing in Metropolitan Toronto, good: let us see the guidelines, the outline and the policies. The changes with respect to racial policy in public housing development are good, but let us see them. With respect to the census, again it is simply a rehash of an old announcement. With respect to employment equity, we do not have a commitment to employment equity; we have a commitment to plan for employment equity. If there is another word that tells us nothing, it is that the government is simply going to be planning for something in the future.

Finally, we have praise for all the sensitive audiences that have been held with the various Ministers of Citizenship and Culture. I have no doubt that the member for Parkdale and the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Munro) have been holding sensitive audiences throughout the province with every group we know. I have no question but that they have been promising and indicating steps that are going to be taken and have been showing how sensitive and capable they are at listening.

When it comes to a policy, this government and this Attorney General have offered us virtually nothing today. The decision to make an announcement was obviously a hasty one. It was taken with no announcement of detailed policy. Frankly, the Attorney General should be embarrassed. If this is the best that an active race relations committee of the cabinet can produce after 11 months, all I can say is that the Attorney General has not served the cause of racial harmony as well as he might have by putting some money and some commitment where his mouth is today.

#### ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Hon. Mr. Ruprecht:** On behalf of the Premier and the government of Ontario, I rise for



the purpose of recognizing an important event 68 years ago, May 28, 1918—

**Mr. McClellan:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: We do not have copies of this.

**Mr. Speaker:** There has been a request for copies of the statement. Have they been delivered to the other members?

**Hon. Mr. Ruprecht:** Copies have been delivered to both leaders of the official parties.

**Mr. Grossman:** This is it?

**Hon. Mr. Ruprecht:** That is correct.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do the members have copies?

**Hon. Mr. Ruprecht:** The members had copies five minutes ago.

On behalf of the Premier and the government of Ontario, I rise for the purpose of recognizing an important event that took place on this day 68 years ago, May 28, 1918: the proclamation of the Republic of Armenia. This day is of great significance to the Armenian community here and to Armenians around the world.

The province of Ontario and the Canadian nation have prospered through the courage and industry of people of many nationalities who have come to this land in search of freedom and opportunity. On this day we are especially mindful of the important contributions that our citizens of Armenian ancestry have made to our province and country since first arriving in Canada to settle in the St. Catharines area in 1886.

The celebration of this anniversary fosters within us a deeper appreciation of freedom, liberty and democratic ideals. Therefore, on behalf of the government of Ontario, I invite all members of this Legislature to join me in remembering May 28 as Armenian Independence Day.

**Mr. Shymko:** I want to join my colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) regarding the announcement of Armenian Independence Day. My concern is, why there has been no proclamation for that independence day as there has been in other independence day resolutions? Why is it not being read today as it has been for others? I ask the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the minister the reason for the selection of some and the avoidance of others.

**Mr. Warner:** I appreciate the additional comment made by the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko). I am very disappointed that there was not a commitment by the government of Ontario to petition the government of Canada to bring pressure on Turkey once and for all to acknowledge the genocide and to

apologize to the Armenian people. Without an acknowledgement and without an apology, there is no justice. I am disappointed that this government has not seen fit to petition the government of Canada on this issue.

**2:41 p.m.**

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Premier. Yesterday, I asked the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) about the possibility of appointing a mediator, something the Premier appeared to endorse a few weeks ago, to try to bring some balance to the discussions with the Ontario Medical Association and to try to avoid the potential for chaos and crisis that may befall the system as early as tomorrow. Will the Premier tell us whether he has called the OMA and suggested that a mediator be appointed?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** The answer is no, I have not.

**Mr. Grossman:** As I said, the Premier indicated several weeks ago that he entertained this as a possibility. It is quite clear that, as happened on the front lawn, the OMA has called for a truce. At that time, the OMA was not asking for major concessions; it was asking for a truce to avoid the job action and the crisis that is about to befall us. Can the Premier tell us why he will not call the OMA now and ask for a mediator?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Someone raised a theoretical suggestion about that possibility some weeks ago. I never exclude any possibilities that I think will lead to progress in this matter. As far as I know from discussions between the minister and the OMA, it was never suggested that this would be helpful in the circumstances and there is no indication that route would lead to any progress.

**Mr. Grossman:** How can the Premier say there is no indication that route would lead to any progress when the OMA itself has indicated it wants a truce? The OMA has said it would like more time to continue to discuss matters. It may well be that no resolution can be reached. It may well be that because of the Premier's determination to hang tough on the ban on extra billing, there will be no progress. But how can he suggest that he sees nothing of value in appointing a mediator?

Clearly, he can avoid a strike tomorrow and he can avoid a strike Friday. He can buy some time and some calm, perhaps a calm opportunity to



discuss these issues further in the presence of a mediator.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Premier.

**Mr. Grossman:** How can he say that would not be helpful?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** How can the Leader of the Opposition say that would solve anything? He has been commenting on this situation regularly for the past several months. He has put forward some ideas that have been dismissed by all sides as well as by commentators. The onus is on him to prove it would be helpful in some way or other.

The member would like to let these things drag on for ever, and the New Democratic Party would have liked them to have been done months ago. We are charged with the sensitive responsibility of trying to work out a solution. As we told him, at various times we thought progress was being made. Unfortunately, ultimately it was not and we had to use the best judgement we had in the circumstances. What I am giving him is the sum total of our best judgement at present.

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a further question for the Premier. He said a moment ago that the onus is on the Leader of the Opposition to show that the appointment of a mediator would provide some progress and some hope. That is an absolutely disgraceful stance for the Premier to take, that somehow the onus is on me or anyone else to prove that a mediator might be helpful when he himself said on April 29th that he would consider appointing an independent arbitrator to break the deadlock.

Does the Premier not agree that the appointment of a mediator could not possibly harm the circumstance and that at the very least it might take four, eight or 12 weeks to cool off feelings and tempers on both sides of this issue?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** These discussions have been going on for not quite a year but almost a year—

**Mr. Grossman:** About four months.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** That is not correct.

**Mr. Grossman:** It is correct. The Premier did not tell them anything until he introduced the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** The honourable member knows everything, as usual. Let me refresh his memory of the history of the situation.

Shortly after we assumed office, discussions started. We said we wanted to discuss the extra billing issue. There were many meetings, and I participated in them, with the leader of the Ontario Medical Association. That goes back to last summer. It may come as a surprise to the

member, but I am sure it does not come as a surprise to others, that this has been going on for a long time.

The member makes suggestions from time to time on a variety of subjects. If he makes useful suggestions, we try to take advantage of them and follow them up. In our judgement, as I told him, at present it would not solve anything except delay for ever, and we would end up in the same position in three, four or five months—however long he wants to delay it—as we are in today.

**Mr. Grossman:** The Premier suggested that the alternatives put forward by the opposition party in this House have been rejected by all reasonable commentators, by his friends the media—his only measure of how he is doing—and by the OMA. I remind him that our four recommendations have been accepted by the OMA as things it is now willing to do, an indication that the OMA is prepared to negotiate and to listen to constructive suggestions offered by politicians.

Other than risking job action closer to a provincial election campaign, what has he got to lose by having 60, 90 or 120 days of mediation?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I am used to the honourable member attributing motives regularly in this House, and I guess it is his right to do so.

I guess it comes as a bit of a surprise to him that we are doing what we said we would do. He is perfectly entitled to criticize the way we are doing it, as he does regularly. His idea of tipping the doctors has been rejected by most people, and I think the minister has used incredibly good judgement in the way this thing has been handled.

One of the realities of life, and I am sure the honourable member will agree with me, is that sometimes there are such differences of opinion that one just cannot capitulate. He has experience with capitulation in these matters, and he knows what is happening. He above all knows the kinds of problems we have had to deal with in these circumstances.

The OMA was not exactly used to dealing with a government that said exactly where it stood on the issue and was proceeding on the questions. We are proceeding, we hope, as sensitively as we can.

**Mr. Grossman:** I want to read a quote from the leader of the government on February 28, 1982, with regard to the fee negotiations he was just referring to:

“It is so easy to kick the doctors. It is a temptation for all people in politics, but I tell you



we will not win, nobody will win, the patients will lose, if we wholesale go around booting them and don't create a climate where they are reasonably comfortable. You can legislate them all back into OHIP tomorrow, but I believe that will create far more stresses and lead to a deterioration in the quality of service if we did that."

That was what the Premier said in 1982. Other than adopting a new position, which we respect—we do not agree with it, but we respect his right to do that—does he now disagree with everything he said in 1982 about the consequences of legislating them all back in?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his research in digging up that quote, because I think it was prophetic in many ways. It indicates our sensitivity. We were not advocating kicking the doctors. What happened was that the doctors kicked the previous government.

2:50 p.m.

#### EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Attorney General about equal pay. In his answer to a question from my colleague the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes), he indicated the legislation would not be forthcoming until the fall. By delaying the introduction of private sector legislation as much as he now intends to delay it, does the minister not realize that basically he is asking all those people—nursing home workers, hospital workers, workers for our municipalities—to accept the very narrow public service bill in the expectation that something, but we do not know what, is going to be forthcoming in the fall?

Will the Attorney General not agree with me that this is a very unfair proposition to put to those public sector workers and to all the other workers in Ontario? They are entitled to see, prior to the summer, the legislation on equal pay that the government intends to bring forward with respect to all sectors.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** We are going to have pay equity in Ontario. The Premier has indicated that the public service bill will go first. It has been introduced in the House and in due course will be debated. We have agreed it will be brought to the broader public sector and to the private sector after full consultation. Consultation means a detailed examination with the public and with interest groups of the various modalities to effect the scheme. That process is coming to a close.

When it has closed, and it will very shortly, then the decisions will be made and put before the House for debate.

The process of government in this Legislature is not fast; we concede that. But to be fair to the interests involved, including the interests that my friend has referred to, it must be thorough, open and consultative.

**Mr. Rae:** I have heard of Moe Koffman; I have not heard of modalities.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member should have stayed at Oxford for another month.

**Mr. Rae:** The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) is having a hard time today. Nobody has asked him a question yet and he is getting upset. He is yawning.

This is not good enough. The Attorney General cannot reasonably expect more than 90 per cent of the working women in this province to simply wait and hang around on the expectation that something is going to come. The accord that the Premier signed a year ago provided very clearly that legislation with respect to equal pay in the public and private sectors would be a priority for the government.

He has delayed once and now he is announcing a second delay into the fall. Why does he insist on having that kind of delay? He knows the impact it is going to have on many millions of women who are demanding equal pay and who right now are not getting it from this government.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** The reality is clear that there would have been no commitment on the part of a government to pay equity if this government had not been elected. The predecessor government—

**Mr. Pope:** This government was not elected.

**Mr. Martel:** Elected by us; did the minister forget?

Interjections

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** We feel like the government. How do those guys feel?

**An hon. member:** Take a look at the face of the Leader of the Opposition. One can tell how he feels.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I will just wait.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** To answer my honourable friend who raised this question, I recognize there is delay in this process. It is not delay for the purpose of delaying. It is delay because the bill will be complex in its nature, if it is to be effective and to have teeth, as I think it must have. It also must carry with it the community



that all of us represent, which is the community of Ontario. That requires, in a modern age, a high level of consultation. That is what we are doing in the hope that as soon as possible we can bring forward a bill that will be supported by the people and that will be effective. That is our commitment. Frankly, my colleagues and I are doing the best we can do to honour it.

**Mr. Speaker:** New question.

**Mr. Rae:** No. I think I will have one last try. One does not know what the answer will be, but I would like to ask the Attorney General if he does not realize the implication of what he is saying. I remind him that Mr. Dimma, who is one of the anointed three he appointed to his panel, said the effect has been "to delay the entire process." He admitted that. That is the effect of what the minister has done in terms of his so-called consultation.

Does he not realize he is putting women working in the public sector, in nursing homes, in hospitals, women working in the private sector and in factories right across this province in an impossible position when it comes to having to deal with the very narrow bill called Bill 105? Does he not recognize that it would be far wiser—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The question has been asked.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** It was only 10 days ago that my learned friend was criticizing the government for consulting with doctors to see if an impasse could be resolved. For my part, I am not ashamed of consulting with interest groups. I do not always agree with them, and I do not always accept their positions, but I think that kind of consultation is important.

Tomorrow morning we will be meeting with the pay equity group composed of trade unions from all across the province which are making a useful contribution to the process of developing a complex and, I hope, effective piece of legislation. I do not propose to short-circuit a good process which will produce a good bill simply to provide an answer that suits my friend.

#### ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. It has to do with the very real problem—I hope he is aware of it—of the number of people working for him and working for hospitals, psychiatric institutions, and institutions covered by his colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) who are being hurt and injured on the job.

Is he aware of the situation at the North Bay Psychiatric Hospital where, in the first four months of this year alone, the number of injuries arising from patient violence was 41, or approximately 10 a month? Is he aware that this represents a dramatic increase in the number of workers who are subjected to this kind of violence and this level of assault? What does he intend to do to remedy this situation, and what kind of help can he give to those workers who are putting themselves at risk every day on the job?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** As the honourable gentleman will know, we have met on occasion with the representatives of the workers at the institutions right across the province. We have received some suggestions with respect to things that might be considered. I have in place within my ministry but with representation from other interest groups, or at least representation to be provided, a way of analysing the role of the employee in the work place and how we can address some of the areas that have been identified as causing difficulties for employees in the work place.

I met recently with the president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. We have been taking some steps to try to activate some of the employee relations committees and other things to assist us in deciding how we best can attack that difficult situation. In addition, we also wish to address the issue of concern expressed about the number of instances in which patients have also complained about staff treatment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Supplementary.

3 p.m.

**Mr. Rae:** I hope the minister is aware of how serious this problem is, not only in psychiatric institutions but also in nursing homes and in many public institutions which provide care or treatment for people. Can the minister tell us specifically what he intends to do to deal with two very real problems which have been brought to our attention and, I am sure, to the minister's attention on a great many occasions?

The first is the enormous problem of inadequate training of staff at all levels with respect to this problem. In particular, what is he doing about the tremendous problem of burnout, what I call the new frontier of health and safety in the public sector in terms of the stress problems affecting people? I ask the minister to address those two problems and to give us some answers.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Those two items were raised and discussed in general terms in the meeting with the president of OPSEU and some



of the representatives of his executive. In conjunction with the members of the unions who participated in those discussions, we agreed we will try to come up with ways of addressing the issue of stress and the need for training or retraining.

**Mr. Rae:** I will raise one example, only because it is one of which we were made aware some time ago in the submission made to our health and safety task force by Bill Russell, the health and safety representative at North Bay Psychiatric Hospital. What does the minister intend to do about this problem in this institution? In the first four months, there was a total of 450 days lost time, some directly because of injuries resulting from attacks by patients and others resulting from tremendous burnout and morale problems and people losing time as a result. What does he intend to do about that problem at that institution to make sure the patients of this province are getting the care they deserve?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** When we met with OPSEU and when we discussed those situations, we did not address specific facilities. We were talking in general terms, but we realized the reason the question was raised was that there was a need to address some concerns with respect to stress in the work place. I have no qualms about saying to the honourable gentleman that we have undertaken to work in co-operation with those people's representatives to try to come up with some way of dealing with the problems. Once we are able to identify and define the problem specifically, we will move. I will take the example and alert my ministry staff to the concerns raised by the gentleman.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to attend at the North Bay psychiatric facility for a tour, as I have done at several others. I have been at the Lakehead and Whitby and several other facilities, but unfortunately I have not been able to be there. I look forward to being able to address some of those concerns when I visit that facility.

#### EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

**Mr. Gillies:** My question is to the Attorney General regarding pay equity. The combined opposition parties are going to move to expand his pay equity bill. He should get on board. He should not get caught outside on this one.

Can the minister explain why his pay equity panel, which was announced with great fanfare and is publicly funded at considerable expense, will be making its recommendations only in oral

form and only to the minister and to the Premier (Mr. Peterson)?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** First, I am interested to hear that the honourable member for Brantford is expressing the view of the combined opposition. I would like to know what accords that representation is based on. I very much hope the member will not introduce a proposal of the type he suggests. It will greatly disadvantage the members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, because the bill, as the member will see from its terms, will have to be substantially rewritten. The Consultation Panel on Pay Equity will be making a report of what it has heard and it will have access both to me and to the Premier, as the labour advisory committee and the business advisory committee would.

**Mr. Gillies:** The Attorney General answered both the observation and the question.

If the minister truly wants to demonstrate his commitment to the working women of this province, he will move to bring his bill to the broad public service and not to the very narrow definition he has used, which I do not believe lives up to his commitment during the election or in the accord. I happen to think the third party agrees with us.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Mr. Gillies:** I say to the minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** You ask the minister.

**Mr. Gillies:** I ask the minister.

The representatives the minister has put on his pay equity panel have said they are making the recommendation orally only to the Premier and the minister. When the minister announced this panel, he said his commitment was to open and accessible government: "We will begin a consultation process available to all." How does a secret consultation between the Premier and the minister come close to meeting that commitment? Why does he not make this consultation available to the members of the House?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** Let me deal with the observation, first of all. I understand that an attempt to expand the bill to include the broader public sector is well intentioned. There is no question about that. The reality is, as it is advanced by my honourable friend the member for Brantford, that it is a plot to shipwreck and delay the public sector bill because it would have to be substantially rewritten. I hope the House will seriously consider that course before it is taken, as I am sure it will.



With respect to the question my friend has asked, it is the first question asked over again, and I give the same answer.

**Mr. Gillies:** On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: The Attorney General's most recent comment imputes motive to me and to the members of this party. I want to say to the minister that we are not out to shipwreck his—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

#### ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

**Mr. Foulds:** I have a question for the Minister of Labour in the absence of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney). Will the minister explain why, in this day and age, his ministry, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of the Solicitor General are unable to provide adequate work-place safety for public servants working in the province's psychiatric hospitals and centres for the developmentally handicapped?

Specifically, can the minister tell us how it came to pass that Pat Chapados, a counsellor at the Northwestern Regional Centre in Thunder Bay, was attacked on three separate occasions by the same resident in a 24-male ward, the last time being choked, thrown to the floor and kicked in the stomach in the eighth month of her pregnancy, resulting in a three-week compensation claim? Why are such incidents allowed to happen almost daily in Ontario's institutions?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I do not know the details of the specific instance. I will take that as notice and check into the matter.

As the honourable member knows, his leader has just asked a question of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) along the same lines. I am sure that minister, the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes) and other ministers where appropriate, but particularly those three, are very carefully to ensure the greatest possible degree of health and safety, particularly, as in this case, safety from injuries arising in places of incarceration over which they have jurisdiction.

**Mr. Foulds:** I thought the minister was responsible for health and safety.

As a result of understaffing, attacks on workers in public and provincial psychiatric hospitals and centres for the developmentally handicapped happen regularly. Has the minister been made aware that these attacks are increasing, by 46 per cent at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital—that is, from 76 to 111 over the past

year—and by 77 per cent at the Northwestern Regional Centre between 1984 and 1985?

**3:10 p.m.**

What specific measures will his government take to rectify a situation where, as a condition of employment, Ontario's public servants are required to suffer physical assault, to be beaten or to have their lives endangered on a regular basis? What is the minister going to do to improve that—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. That is the second time the member has asked the question.

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** The honourable member should not confuse what I said at the end of my first answer. As the member will know, in effect, I am not the employer in those centres. We have the health and safety branch of the ministry and we will play our role. I am sure the ministers, two of whom are in the House today, have taken careful note of the question. My colleague the Minister of Health has already given a full answer to the leader of the third party. I will draw this very important matter to the attention of the Minister of Community and Social Services on his return.

#### RACE RELATIONS

**Ms. Fish:** I have a question for the minister responsible for women's issues, if he will resume his seat.

In his statement today, the minister indicated the race relations division of the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Ontario women's directorate will be appointing staff to consult with visible minority women. That work was begun in 1983 with a founding conference of both the commission and the directorate. Can the minister tell me what further specific work will be done now?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** Let me answer that question and also the response given by my learned friend the leader of the third party, because they both make the same point. It is a good point and I respect and value the commitment of the two members to the promise of race relations in this province.

There are many things in this statement that have been announced in other places. The point is, they have never been done in Ontario. That is the key thing. Since I got out of college, Gordon Cressy, Joanne Campbell, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) and a host of people have been saying, "We need race relations policies in Ontario Housing." A report was made to the last government and nothing was done about it. Today we are doing something about it.



Second, to answer my friend's precise question, in 1982 the government funded a conference of minority women, which made a report. As the minority women have told us when they have met with us, nothing was done about that report. We have started that process. We have not met all their demands. We have not begun to achieve anything like the expectations they have, but we have taken the first steps on the report they made in 1982 to the last government. That is our commitment and I am proud of it.

**Ms. Fish:** My supplementary question is one that derives from puzzlement at the minister's response. The previous government set the race relations division, the Ontario women's directorate and representatives of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, together with representatives of visible minority women, to follow up on not only the specific recommendations of that conference but on others that had come forward. We had identified plans of action that involved core funding, responses to immigrant women's health centres and hiring practices.

When the minister came to office, he had quite an extensive body of material in front of him that had already been developed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Ms. Fish:** He was reminded in January of further work to be done by a further submission from the coalition. Fully a year later, with all of the material that had already been under way, why is his major announcement that he is starting by appointing someone—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I have now been here almost a year and maybe I am not getting into what is going on in this process. Let us be perfectly fair. I have known Roy McMurtry all his life. There is no person whom I admire more and whose commitment to race relations is more profound and more real.

**Mr. Grossman:** It took the minister a long time.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I know that. I am not ashamed to say it. From talking to him, I know he is concerned about these things. It may have been somebody else's problem, but the reality is that when the racial minority women made a report in 1982, they could not get any of it implemented by the previous government. We do not meet all their concerns. We cannot go the whole distance. However, we are taking the first important step they asked us to take and I am proud of it.

**Mr. Rae:** Let us have one piece of legislation or one bill that will solve—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. New question.

## ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

**Mr. Martel:** I have a question for the Minister of Labour regarding Millbrook Correctional Centre which, when it was opened 30 years ago, was a modern reformatory. The minister will be aware that the institution was designed to accommodate 260 prisoners who were there because they displayed dangerous psychological tendencies. They were allowed 20 minutes' freedom a day. That has now changed. They have five hours' freedom a day.

Is the minister aware that from January to October 1985 some 40 staff people were assaulted? Is he aware that this year already there have been 54 staff assaulted in that institution? Can the minister tell me why there are so many assaults going on in institutions in the province?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I am not certain there are. That is a very specific instance. I do not know whether that extends to other institutions. I will certainly endeavour to get a report on the general thrust of the questions being asked today. It has not been brought to my attention. If the member would like, since we have talked about correctional institutions, I will refer the rest of the question to the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes), who is also the Minister of Correctional Services. He may have further information on the situation.

**Mr. Martel:** As a supplementary to this minister, will he tell me, since he is responsible for the health and safety of workers in the province, including those in institutions, what procedures he is prepared to put in place immediately to reduce the number of assaults that have occurred in this one institution in less than a year and a half, which is almost 100?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I am not going to stand up and give the member a list of procedures that we are going to put in place. However, I will tell him that we will immediately review the situation. We will pull together a number of disparate reports which would have been prepared by a variety of inspectors. We will see what the Workers' Compensation Board has on these matters. I will get back to the member at the appropriate time.

Let me make it clear to my friend the member for Sudbury East that if there is new activity needed in terms of the protection of workers or if there are problems this ministry can address under the Occupational Health and Safety Act,



we will address them. There is no lack of political will on this side.

**Mr. Martel:** Where has the grievance been since October? In the swamp?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Mr. Davis:** I have a question for the Minister of Education. It is now his position that the separate secondary school system, when it receives public funding, should be allowed to discriminate in its hiring practices. How can it ever be acceptable to legislate discrimination?

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** It is a red letter day when the Leader of the Opposition, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), suggests he might lead us all in grace and class classes. Did you hear the Leader of the Opposition suggest he might undertake a class?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is up to you to answer the question.

3:20 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** The position of the government is very clear and I made it abundantly clear yesterday. In the process of Bill 30, we intend to complete a separate school system that was created before Confederation in this province and that was, in terms of its rights and privileges, confirmed in section 93 of the British North America Act.

It is quite obvious that is the intention of the government. The courts in this province and in the country have made it clear that one of the fundamental rights provided for the separate schools of Ontario and elsewhere is the right to hire teachers who give effect to the denominational character of that system.

The very distinguished former Premier and leader of the Conservative Party, when he made his statement in 1984, made it clear he recognized that fundamental principle. I find it passing strange that what is left of Mr. Davis's legacy in the 33rd Parliament of Ontario neither understands nor recognizes that important and fundamental reality.

**Mr. Davis:** The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has just made a major statement on nondiscrimination in Ontario. No matter what the Minister of Education says, no matter how he decides to cover it up, what he has proposed is out and out discrimination, not only for teachers currently wishing to move to the separate school system but also for those who will be graduating from teachers' colleges. What double standard ratio-

nale can he find to justify discrimination in hiring practices and in legislation?

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** Among other references, I cite the case of *Caldwell v. Stewart* in the Supreme Court of Canada in 1984, the *Essex County Roman Catholic School Board and Porter* in the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1978 and several others in which it was made very clear that one of the most fundamental protections provided the separate schools of Ontario is the right of the trustees to hire teachers who will give effect to the denominational character of that system.

That is the case this government has made, that is the case our lawyers have already won in the Ontario Court of Appeal and that is the case we submit to this Legislature and to the people beyond—a case that, quite frankly, I am very confident we will win when the matter is finally settled in the Supreme Court of Canada.

### ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** My question is to the Premier. He has heard a list of questions from this party this afternoon about the problems of inadequate staffing in institutions in the province, which are threatening the workers' safety and the quality of care in those institutions.

I wish to bring to the Premier's attention the case at Cedar Springs in southwestern Ontario, with which he is very familiar. How can he explain in 1986 that this is appropriate care or adequate staffing? In one ward, called Elgin 1 North, there are 22 profoundly retarded residents. All are incontinent and all are incapacitated. Twenty out of 22 are in diapers—these are all adults—and there are only two staff people to look after them.

How can he consider that to be adequate staffing to look after those people or to protect those workers in this day and age?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I cannot make an argument to my honourable friend on this issue. I can assure him the incidents that were brought to the attention of the House today by him and by his colleagues will be looked into. I appreciate the information they are providing.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** I could list a lot of other institutions, but I want to go back to this particular one at Cedar Springs, because both the Premier and I were involved in the closing of the St. Thomas Adult Rehabilitation and Training Centre. There is a unit there for geriatric nursing, and almost all of them come from the START Centre. There are 24 low-functioning ambulatory



ry older men, and there is often only one full-time worker on that shift to deal with them. Is it not time to review the quality of care we are providing in our institutions and the kind of pressure we are putting on the staff who have to deal with this day in and day out?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** There is no member who understands these difficulties and pressures better than my friend opposite. I have some understanding, too, of the work we did. There is no tougher work in this province, I am sure. Those people are a very dedicated group of people.

I am not in a position to build a case one way or the other in this House and I do not want to be in that position. I assure the member I take his comments seriously and I take the comments of his colleagues seriously. I will discuss this with the minister. We will review the specific cases he raises. If there are any more that he is aware of, we will look at them very seriously. If there are problems we can address, then we will attempt to address them.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Minister of Education. Is it his position that the British North America Act, the Charter of Rights and the courts together have said it is lawful to discriminate in secondary schools as well as in elementary separate schools?

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** It is our view that in Bill 30 we are completing a system that is a unity, one system with one set of clearly established, constitutional rights. That is the view we have advanced. That is the view that I believe his very distinguished former Premier, Mr. Davis, advanced. I want to make it clear that in Bill 30 we believe we are completing something old, something basic, something fundamental to the essence not just of Ontario but also of Canada. We are not talking about creating a new system in Bill 30, but about completing an old system with one set of constitutional rights and protections.

**Mr. Grossman:** The Minister of Education does not have the courage to stand up and really speak for his convictions. I want to give him the opportunity to do that. Does the Minister of Education believe that the BNA Act, the Charter of Rights and the courts together have made it lawful to discriminate in Catholic secondary schools? Yes or no?

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** Let none of us be under any wrong impression about where this Leader of the Opposition stands on this very important,

historic and sensitive issue. We know. We saw what this Leader of the Opposition did in York East. A few months ago this Leader of the Opposition stood up in this city and said, "Bill Davis, notwithstanding separate schools and Suncor, was not a bad leader." That is the view and that is the position of this leader. The people of York East have already seen, and the people of Ontario generally will see, right through this kind of tactic.

#### INMATE TREATMENT

**Ms. Bryden:** I have a question for the Minister of Correctional Services. I have been told that a 72-year old male inmate of Millbrook Correctional Centre was recently kept for approximately 85 days in a former punishment cell, now used as a segregation cell, with no toilet, only a hole in the floor, and no sink. His only misdemeanour appeared to be occasional banging on his door and noisy talking, which could be classified in his case as the somewhat incoherent ramblings of a man with an ageing mind. Will the minister investigate the situation? If my information is correct, will he tell the House whether he thinks this is a proper way to treat an elderly inmate who may need a doctor more than punishment or segregation?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** I am aware of the incident. I will be quite happy to make known to the member the exact circumstances surrounding it. It is one of those pathetic situations. The man happens to be incontinent. He has absolutely refused to make use of hygienic facilities in the institution, no matter how much the staff has urged him to do so. It cannot be compulsory upon him. It was the request of every member of the inmate population that the person be removed from their midst for their protection.

**Mr. Rae:** What the hell is he doing there?

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** Why is he there?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** He is there for the offences he has committed against the laws of the country.

**Ms. Bryden:** Perhaps he should be in the hospital part of the prison rather than in a segregation cell. Will the minister also investigate the case of another male inmate of the same institution, aged about 52, who was kept in a similar cell for 103 days, although he had not been charged with any breach of prison rules, as far as I am aware? If the minister agrees that this kind of treatment is inhumane, will he instruct his correctional staff to deal with minor behavioural problems in a way more in keeping with modern standards of criminology?



**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** I will certainly investigate, although I am not aware of the second incident the member has brought to my attention. I will be glad to report back to her. I assure the member that we do attempt to make sure they are treated in as humane a way as possible in the circumstances of the structures we have at our disposal.

3:30 p.m.

#### MINISTER'S CAR

**Mr. Gillies:** I have a question for the usually good-natured Chairman of Management Board. Why has the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) affixed a two-foot sign to the back of her car that says, "The Honourable Lily Munro, Minister of Citizenship and Culture"? Are we dealing with an identity crisis here, or is it so everyone will know the minister is in the car and salute, as required?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I am wondering whether that really relates to the Chairman of Management Board. It does. Minister.

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** This looks very much as though it was part of a celebration or a parade. I will check into the date this was taken and the circumstances. I have not seen this. If the honourable minister were here, I am sure she would happy to answer this question, which is the most important question of the day from the member for Brantford. I will be sure to see he gets an urgent response to this very pressing issue in this province.

**Mr. Gillies:** We do take this very seriously indeed. Is it an isolated incident, or should we look next for government cars sporting bumper stickers saying, "Honk if you love Liberals"?

#### ACCESS TO ABORTION COMMITTEES

**Ms. Gigantes:** My question is to the minister responsible for women's issues. The minister made it clear in answer to my question a few days ago that when it comes to the issue of access to abortion service, he prefers the role of prosecuting crown attorney to that of advocate for women. If he wants to resign his role as minister responsible for women's issues, he should do so. In the meantime, will he please explain what action he is taking to advance the Liberal election promise of equitable access to abortion service for women in need?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** The question of access to abortion is primarily a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). I refer the question to him.

**Mr. Speaker:** A question to the Minister of Health.

**Ms. Gigantes:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I believe this ministry is responsible for women's issues, and it is in that context I asked the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is fine, and I believe that is why you placed the question to the Attorney General. The Attorney General referred the question to the Minister of Health, as I understand it. I have no control over whether ministers answer or whether they refer.

Did the Attorney General refer it to the Minister of Health?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I did.

**Mr. Speaker:** You did. Is there a response from the Minister of Health?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I did not hear the entire question, because we were discussing the content of the question of the honourable gentleman from Brantford with respect to the sign.

We are examining questions of access in general terms and we have information that there are problems in some areas. We have set up discussions with some people, and we are making progress with coming to grips with access and the definition of the problems.

**Ms. Gigantes:** Obviously, neither minister has an answer to my question. I would like either one of them, it does not matter which one—

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest you place it to the Minister of Health.

**Ms. Gigantes:** I will ask it of the Minister of Health since the minister responsible for women's issues will not answer.

Given that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) most clearly and specifically promised to provide access to abortion service and that access is becoming more limited instead of improving, will the Minister of Health tell the minister responsible for women's issues, who is also the Attorney General, to respect the advice of the United Church of Canada, the Young Women's Christian Association and many other groups that tell him not to prosecute the doctors who are providing responsible service in clinics outside hospitals in Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The request was that I convey those sentiments from the member for Ottawa Centre to the Attorney General, and I shall do just that.

#### RACE RELATIONS

**Ms. Fish:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. In view of the statements this afternoon



about concern for visible minority women, I noted that health was singularly absent in the statement. Does the minister intend to bring forward specific programs to serve immigrant and minority women's health needs?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** We have on occasion received applications with respect to programs that have been designed to address particular needs, not only for women but also for men from various of the multicultural communities around Ontario. As members know, program proposals for additions of new programs and areas are referred to the district health councils. They are rated and provided to us on the basis of their recommendations through the health councils for funding.

I can tell the honourable member there was no real indication of lack of interest on the part of the Ministry of Health because we were not mentioned in the statement. We have been taking steps to deal with the provision of services among the various cultural communities in Ontario, and we have commended the cabinet committee on race relations and the efforts by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and by the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) to bring to our attention the very real and different needs in those communities. We will continue to do that.

If the member has a particular program that she thinks would be of interest to us, I ask her to make us aware of it so we can make sure it is referred on through the district health council system.

**Ms. Fish:** The Immigrant Women's Centre in Toronto has been funded by his ministry since 1975. Why is the minister not prepared to provide funding of \$27,000 for a mobile health unit that could provide obstetrical and gynaecological services to immigrant and minority women in this area?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I do not have a specific answer. I can take a look and make sure I know what the proposal requires of the Ministry of Health in funding. With respect to that project, those new and expanded programs are rated and ranked by the district health councils of the areas in which they are located. We will take a look at their recommendations on the basis of their rankings.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Swart:** The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations will recall that he said yesterday, in a rather convoluted attempt to discredit the proposal for a price control for gasoline in this province, that Nova Scotia,

which has such legislation, had the highest-priced fuel in Canada. He had stated that several times previously.

Why would the minister make a statement such as that when Statistics Canada figures, which I have here, show that Nova Scotia has consistently during the past two years had the second-lowest price for gasoline of all of the five provinces east of us and continues to this day to have the second-lowest price? Why would he give false information such as that to this House?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I should probably qualify that remark. The member may be right on the grand scale. What I meant to say was the price from the refinery, exclusive of provincial tax. There is no question that we charge 8.3 cents per litre in tax in Ontario to provide the citizens of Ontario with their roads and services. If one takes the tax out, he will find the price of gasoline in Nova Scotia is considerably higher than the price of gasoline in Ontario.

**Mr. Swart:** That is a supplementary statement to what he said yesterday, higher there than in Ontario. He said it was the highest in Canada, and he is absolutely wrong.

Is the minister aware that the maximum difference in price allowed between Halifax and the most remote part of Nova Scotia is 1.7 cents per litre? That is what their legislation accomplishes. Does he not think the people of northern Ontario should have the right to that kind of legislation? Will he enact such price control legislation so the people of the north will have that protection and all the people of Ontario will have price protection against a ripoff by the oil companies?

3:40 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The other day, my colleague the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) announced he was having hearings in the north to talk about it. We are looking into that situation, and we will report back to the House as soon as we have findings.

#### CONTRACT WORKER

**Mr. Andrewes:** My question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I understand the ministry supports equal opportunity employment guidelines and affirmative action programs. Will the minister undertake to investigate the case of Margaret McBride of Vineland, a single parent, who for the past seven years has worked on a contract basis with the ministry but has been bypassed on several full-time job opportunities and has yet to be accorded an interview in spite of numerous attempts and



applications for full-time employment? Will he please investigate that clear case of lack of affirmative action support?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** I will take it upon myself to investigate the situation the member raises, but I will not let him go away from this House thinking we do not employ minorities to the best of our ability. We adopted an affirmative action program some time ago. We promoted a female employee to a very senior position only two weeks ago. That is consistent with what we do throughout the ministry. The member will also know we have a declining number of employees in the ministry, but we have an increasing number of senior female employees.

## PETITIONS

### NATUROPATHY

**Mr. Henderson:** I have a petition which reads:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

That is signed by Dr. John G. LaPlante of my constituency and about 150 other petitioners.

### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Partington:** I have a petition signed by 679 residents of St. Catharines and Brock riding.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

### MILK PRICES

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of senior citizens from the senior citizens' complex at 345 St. George's Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie. They belong to the St. George's Busy Bee Club of the United Senior

Citizens of Ontario. They are strongly protesting the rising costs of milk and they go on to say:

"We are not only thinking about ourselves as seniors but also our families and others who have to have milk. It will be a real hardship for all. I hope this government will act on this petition and equalize the price of milk, as the Liberals had promised in their campaign last year."

### TOURIST BUREAU FOR THE DISABLED

**Mr. Rowe:** I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of the disabled community. It is a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor in support of a tourist bureau for the disabled. The petition represents nine organizations and has more than 1,000 signatures of people from across the province.

## MOTION

### COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTION

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that Mr. Barlow be substituted for Mr. Bennett on the select committee on economic affairs.

Motion agreed to.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### CITY OF CHATHAM ACT

Mr. Bossy moved first reading of Bill Pr21, An Act respecting the city of Chatham.

Motion agreed to.

### PAMAGLENN INVESTMENTS LIMITED ACT

Mr. Polsinelli moved first reading of Bill Pr13, An Act respecting Pamaglenn Investments Limited.

Motion agreed to.

### SHERRYDALE INVESTMENTS LIMITED ACT

Mr. Polsinelli moved first reading of Bill Pr14, An Act respecting Sherrydale Investments Limited.

Motion agreed to.

### ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Pouliot moved first reading of Bill 46, An Act to amend the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Pouliot:** The purpose of this bill is to give the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education the



power to grant degrees, honorary degrees, diplomas and certificates in education.

3:50 p.m.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Pursuant to standing order 34(a), Mr. Runciman moved that the business of the House be set aside so that the House might debate a matter of urgent public importance, that being the government's failure to determine the validity of recent gas price increases to the consumers of Ontario and its failure to provide remedial action for the gasoline consumers of northern Ontario.

**Mr. Speaker:** The notice of this motion was received at 11:40 a.m., and it complies with standing order 34. I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes as well as to representatives from the other parties.

**Mr. Runciman:** The motion I have introduced today deals with a matter that is of vital and immediate concern to every motorist, farmer, trucker, tourism operator and commuter in Ontario, especially in northern Ontario, and for that reason it should be of concern to every member of this assembly.

As the members of the House are aware, we have recently witnessed a significant increase in the price of gasoline and have seen that price jump by between five and eight cents a litre in some areas. Members of both opposition parties have repeatedly called on the government to investigate these increases, but these calls have been met with derision and buck-passing.

There have also been numerous appeals from northern members, especially the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), for action on the wide disparity between northern and southern prices. Again, the reaction has been one of ignorance and indifference.

These increases have a profound impact on every sector of this province's economy. The price of food rises as the fuel for tractors and trucks becomes more expensive. The tourist operators who depend on American visitors—there are many in my riding, for example—find these visitors staying in the United States, where a litre or a gallon of gasoline costs considerably less and where the price continues to fall.

The members of this party believe the time has come to debate this matter fully and without delay. I hope the third party will agree. It is evident from listening to the member for Sault

Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) and the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) that there is a sense of urgency in their ranks about this issue. I sincerely hope the government will share that sense of urgency.

When the members of the Liberal Party sat on this side of the House, they were very vocal in their concern for the Ontario gasoline consumers and in their calls for provincial government action. I remind my friends opposite that in January 1985 their colleague the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley), reacting to an announced price increase of 1.1 cents per litre, said, "The provincial government has an obligation to protect Ontario consumers from gouging by major oil companies that avoid competition, competition that should flourish in a private enterprise system."

I have before me a copy of an open letter sent by the present Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) to the then Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, our good friend Dr. Robert Elgie, in which he called on the minister to take "immediate and strong action to rectify the gas pricing situation."

Similar concerns and demands were expressed by the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), the present Premier. I am sure the Premier will recall that in January 1985 he issued a release—

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I thought this five minutes was to be devoted to whether we should have the debate now, not actually to participate in the debate. There is every reason to believe we are going to be spending the rest of the afternoon on this important subject, but if the honourable member does not have any further information as to why the debate should be held now and the other business set aside, why does he not complete his remarks so the matter can be decided and we can then proceed with the debate? Why do we have to listen to this twice?

**Mr. Runciman:** Perhaps I should start all over again.

The Premier will recall that in January 1985 he issued a release in which he demanded that the provincial government stop being part of the ripoff and fight for the rights of Ontario drivers. The member for London Centre was merely echoing the concerns expressed by his colleague the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), who now serves as the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and who two years ago said, "When prices go up and down the way they have and stay at the higher prices longer than they do at the



lower ones, something would appear to be wrong."

The honourable member was right. Something is seriously wrong. Something is wrong not only with the gas pricing system, a system that takes three months to pass through cost reductions to the consumer and only three minutes to pass through cost increases, but also with this government. The people of Ontario are losing their patience and are looking to this Legislature for assistance. I call on the members of all parties to take the first step by agreeing to this resolution.

**Mr. Swart:** It is obvious from the stand we have taken on this for many years that we will support the emergency debate this afternoon. We come into this debate with clean hands, unlike the party to my right, which took exactly the same position on the matter of gasoline prices as the government is taking at present. Nevertheless, we think a debate in this House this afternoon will be extremely valuable and perhaps to some extent may force the present reluctant minister to move.

We should proceed with the debate because there are new circumstances. It is true that for the past three, four or five months there has been frequent evidence from the oil companies that the retail price of gasoline—in fact, the tank truck price of gasoline—has been too high. However, now there is a new situation. Last weekend, after the price had been lowered, all the gasoline companies decided to raise the price of gasoline by two cents. We are confronted with a new situation, a new emergency, and I suggest that the minister consider supporting the debate's proceeding this afternoon.

We have a minister in the Liberal government who has blown hot and cold for the past several months on the matter of whether the increases in gasoline prices can be justified. However, he has never become hot enough to do a single, solitary thing about it. He has wrung his hands. As I mentioned yesterday, he said in a letter to me a month ago, "I am not yet satisfied that the consumer is paying a fair price for gasoline." Then on two or three occasions, including yesterday, he said, "There is no evidence that there is a ripoff by the oil companies of the gasoline consumers of this province."

Then yesterday, or the day before, he said, "The oil companies must justify these new price increases." I think I am quoting him almost word for word as it appeared in the paper. How is the minister going to require the oil companies to justify the new prices? Will he do it like the last

time, going cap in hand to them and coming out and saying, "The oil companies told me the prices were not high enough," and then doing nothing?

We cannot make the oil companies justify the price unless we have legislation, yet the minister refuses to give consideration even to an investigation on whether those prices are too high. I mean a real investigation, not an open letter to the oil companies. We should be discussing this matter of a real investigation this afternoon.

Although the difference in gasoline prices between the north and the south has been brought to the minister's attention for months, he has done nothing. The difference is very real and very harmful. That should be debated this afternoon because of the minister's reluctance to intervene in any way. The unrealistic price difference between unleaded gasoline and leaded gasoline has been brought to his attention over and over again, but more forcefully just recently; the minister makes no investigation into that.

Even the members of his own government, when they were in opposition—and two of them have already been quoted; I could quote the statements of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) when he was in opposition. He said the Ontario Energy Board should be given the power not only to monitor gasoline prices ongoing but also to order them held or rolled back. I wonder if the Treasurer remembers saying that in 1975.

At this time, the situation is as bad as or worse than it has ever been with regard to a ripoff on gasoline prices, and we need this debate this afternoon.

**4 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There are many issues of importance, and this is certainly one of them. However, I do not agree we should set aside the important business that was to be undertaken this afternoon, already ordered by agreement of the House leaders, for the purpose of the debate proposed by the honourable member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman).

Since April 22, for five full weeks, the House has had the opportunity to discuss a wide variety of matters; the ministers of the crown and other members have had an opportunity to listen to the debates and to the points put forward by members of all three parties pertaining to many of these important issues, including the high price of gasoline.

I simply suggest this opportunity has been before us for five full weeks. We have been in session since April 22. This is the first day that, by agreement, we were going to approach the



legislative program of the government and undertake the payment of the bills undertaken by the government itself. We have been going on warrants for the last few weeks. The warrants run out at the end of the month. I presume nobody in the opposition is suggesting for a moment that interim supply would not be voted to the government tomorrow.

We have spent weeks on general debate, including this topic. I can only think the honourable member, in responding in a fit of pique to his ridiculous situation yesterday, has vowed he is going to punish the people in the government by exposing us to yet another day of his change of opinion from when he was sitting on the government side. The honourable member who spoke for the New Democratic Party has pointed out that people's opinions do change. I do not see anything very dramatic about that.

What we are going to do, I suggest, as soon as this emergency matter is decided and the debate begins, is that the member for Leeds will rise in his place and begin a speech and everybody in the House will leave. I will stay, because I stay and the member stays, but the emergency is really just in getting this matter undertaken. It makes a mockery of the business of the government and of the House. We have had plenty of opportunity to discuss this. We have responded in detail. This is simply an indication that the honourable member is trying to get his own back for his embarrassment yesterday.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It is time to undertake the business of the province. It is time this Legislature quit fooling around with these undertakings and undertake the debate of the bills and the amendment of the bills that has been so long postponed. I am not like Joe Clark. I can count votes. We are not going to win this discussion, but as government House leader, I do not approve of setting aside the business of the House that has been established by agreement among the House leaders.

We have gone all these weeks talking about general and important subjects, including the one we want to spend yet another day on, and I suggest to the honourable members it is time we got down to business. We are going to be here for a long time. We have a lot of work to do. I suggest to the honourable member that his motion is not well received on this side. I hope the House will agree that we not proceed with the special debate, but go forward with the business of the province.

**Mr. Speaker:** According to standing order 37(a), representatives from all parties have presented their views on this motion. All members have heard those views as set out by those members. It is now the Speaker's responsibility to place the question, shall the debate proceed?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Taylor:** I am happy to participate in this emergency debate. I do not see any Tory members leaving and I hope I have not disappointed the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) in his predictions.

**An hon. member:** Does the member think there should be intervention in the marketplace?

**Mr. Taylor:** Oh, no. I am not going to compete with that member's party. Maybe I should start off there.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member will disregard the interjections.

**Mr. Taylor:** I start from the premise that we have a market system in our province and country, and I think that is paramount, contrary to the views of the New Democratic Party on my left, which is dedicated to the nationalization of the resource industry. That is implicit in the resolutions of their party and it is a part of party policy. I want to make that distinction abundantly plain.

However, I am concerned about what is happening in terms of the manipulation of pricing and the way the marketplace may be working or not working in this particular case.

**An hon. member:** The member is not being consistent.

**Mr. Taylor:** I will address my remarks to you, Mr. Speaker, if you will ensure that order is kept because of the concern of the socialists to my left.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. The member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) is not in his seat and he is interjecting. Will he please cease?

**Mr. Taylor:** Carrying on from there, I have always been an advocate for the consumer. I say this whether as an advocate for the direct consumer of electricity, the rural consumer or the consumer of gasoline. I am concerned about the honesty and the fairness of the marketplace, always remembering the system. The system does not say we have to have what some of us



might determine to be a fair price. Fundamentally, the system is such that one gets what one can for one's product; one maximizes one's profits. Whether we like it or not, that is the system. What is supposed to keep the system fair and keep prices in line is the competition within the marketplace.

In that regard, I would direct the members' attention to some of the historical background of the Seven Sisters and the evolution of the oil industry in this country and in the world. It was not all that many years ago when we were talking about the ever-escalating price of oil and we were accusing the Arab countries of holding us to ransom. We even accused the Albertans of being blue-eyed sheikhs. Some members will remember that.

The single issue that kept Canada together in those days of constitutional talks was the common hatred of the other provinces for Ontario. We were the single largest consuming province and we had an interest in this province on the part of the consumer.

Members will remember that in those days we were arguing here, with all the figures and statistics to back us up, that for every dollar increase in the price of a barrel of oil, so many thousands of people were going to be unemployed. Those figures were all worked out. We were concerned about unemployment. We also determined what the rate of inflation was going to be as the price of oil escalated and the adverse impact on our economy, on our position as competitors in the marketplace in terms of our manufactured and other products. We were concerned in an altruistic sense about the welfare of the underdeveloped nations spending their resources on the ever-escalating price of oil.

**4:10 p.m.**

We heard from Alberta that the oil resources were depletable resources and that it had to have a higher price for that oil in order to diversify its economy, to set up the heritage fund and ensure a healthy, diversified economy for future generations. We also heard that Ontario did not have much of a role in all of this. That is what I was confronted with. Having for part of that period a different role, as Minister of Energy, I was confronted with the queries from Alberta: "Where is Ontario's oil? Where is Ontario's gas? What are you doing at the bargaining table negotiating the pricing of domestic oil?" It did not take long to find out that the issue was not oil pricing; it was tax sharing. It was a fill-the-bucket routine. Everybody tried to grab these so-called windfall moneys or profits because of

the ever-escalating price of crude oil on the world market.

Today all that has reversed. Some are crying that the price of oil is going down and the fallout from that has depressed the economy. The manufacturers of pipes and other goods used in the oil industry have lost their markets and employment is falling. The banks are concerned about their loans to underdeveloped countries, some of them based on oil revenues. The oil revenues now have dropped to such an extent that the banks have become exposed to liabilities which put them in a very precarious position. When we look at the situation today, the arguments for a healthy economy are the opposite of those used the last time. The whole thing is crazy. It is upside down.

What concerns me is the unhealthy attitudes of both government and industry. I say that because if gasoline is regarded as a consumer's product, it should not be looked upon as a luxury. It strikes me that is precisely the treatment this product is getting in today's marketplace.

I do not have the most up-to-date figures, but they are not more than a year old as far as the federal government's take, the producing provinces' take and so on are concerned. If we priced the gasoline at 50 cents a litre, 26.4 per cent of that would go to the federal government, the producing province would get 13.2 per cent, the industry would get 43.2 per cent and Ontario would get 16 per cent. One can see the heavy burden that government has placed on the consumer. I am afraid the government attitude with regard to punitive taxation through the tax régime has encouraged industry to extract as much as it can because it is in competition for as many dollars as it can get from the price of the product.

We have here both levels of government. On the one hand, at the federal level is Petro-Canada; on the other hand, at the provincial level is Suncor. Instead of leading the way and helping in the area of competition, they are leading the way with respect to excessive pricing.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Which member from the third party would like to speak next?

**Mr. Wildman:** Are there no questions and comments?

**The Deputy Speaker:** No, there are no questions or comments.

**Mr. McClellan:** What is the reference in the standing order?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The standing orders only list second and third readings of debates



where there are questions and comments, not during emergency debates.

The member for Timiskaming. Sorry, the member for Lake Nipigon.

**Mr. Pouliot:** The point is well taken by virtue of the fact we do hold Timiskaming. We have seven seats up north, including Lake Nipigon, the largest riding in the province.

I welcome the opportunity to say a few brief words regarding a situation that is truly shocking and appalling when we talk about disparity and when we talk about the price of an essential service as it relates to the north and, more specifically, to the riding of Lake Nipigon.

I heard yesterday that the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) intends to conduct public hearings across northern Ontario to get a first-hand reaction to what has been happening to the price of gasoline. The minister went on and on to tell us about the many communities he will be visiting, the many groups, clubs, organizations, municipalities and what have you that will be asked to give input in regard to the price of gas.

There was one omission. The riding of Lake Nipigon, which represents 28 to 29 per cent of the overall land mass in Ontario, was omitted from the minister's list.

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** It will be on it.

**Mr. Pouliot:** Yes. The minister may be ashamed to find that omission when he goes to Wunnummin Lake, on his second or third trip, and notices that the price of gas over the years has been allowed to exceed \$7 per gallon, or \$8.50 in Fort Severn; or when our first Canadians in some communities have to experience a rate of unemployment of 85 or 90 per cent and are asked literally and vividly to empty the last pennies from their pockets to have access to the gas pump.

When we are talking about an injustice, when we are talking about removing competition from the marketplace, we are also in favour of the free enterprise system, we also adhere to that style, method and approach. However, when we remove the important—

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thought the third party wanted to nationalize the forest industry. I thought they wanted to nationalize Inco. What is free enterprise about that?

**Mr. Pouliot:** We are not going to call it Pinco.

When we remove the basic element of competition in the system we, like others, tend to form cartels and become monopolistic. Those people, and it has to be said, have been picking

the pockets of consumers for a number of years. They have done so with a passion and a vengeance. They have not been their brothers' keepers.

As we stand here we are closer to the city of Miami, Florida, than we are to some parts in the riding of Lake Nipigon. We have to travel more to have access to goods and commodities that other people take for granted. The winters are somewhat longer. Consequently, we burn more fuel, and every time we do so we are penalized. The people of the north repeatedly have been asked to carry the guilt.

We travel 3,000 to 4,000 miles per year in excess of our counterparts in southern Ontario. What can be done about it? How can the government do its job to rectify this injustice? It can do it. It has the jurisdictional capacity to intervene to fix the price of electricity. The same powers are extended to the government, in terms of jurisdictional capacity, when it comes to natural gas prices.

When it is needed as an alternative, they have the political will to do it if they mean what they say. They have the power to legislate. It was done in Nova Scotia and it worked. Failing to have that courage, that expediency, the government needs to seek another alternative; so it lowers or eliminates the provincial sales tax on the price of gasoline. This is the way to intervene. This is positive legislation.

**4:20 p.m.**

Again, if they mean what they say in terms of doing their job, meeting their responsibilities, meeting the aspirations and the needs of northerners, they should do it expediently. They will have a sympathetic response from this side of the House.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** After my outburst against the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman), I want to take part in the debate because, as I said, it is an important issue and, as Minister of Revenue, I know there are those people who are unkind enough and ill-informed enough to think our tax policies have something to do with the prices of gasoline that we pay.

**Mr. Ashe:** Darn right they do.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I thought perhaps some members would be ill-informed enough to think so; so I want to say something about that.

First, I also want to cast my mind back to the period in which the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) was referring to a quote from me when I had said that gasoline prices should be government controlled. The honour-



able member will recall that beginning in 1973, when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries cartel seized control of world prices, the cost of gasoline at the pumps went from, as I recall it, about 32 cents a gallon up to \$1.70 a gallon in a relatively short period.

If members think this whole matter is an issue in the House now, I am sure they would understand—those who were here at the time will bear me out—that it really was a substantial and very heated day-to-day issue. In those days, when the price of petroleum went up in the world market, it went up at the pump the very same day. It was by dint of the efforts of the opposition—so I do not downgrade or dismiss the efforts of the opposition in these matters; far from it—that it was agreed both here and by the government of Canada that they could not put the price up in the petroleum industry until the higher-priced crude worked its way through the system. This took about 70 to 90 days.

This was quite a concession, because the increase in prices up until that time had been instantaneous, and the windfalls of selling what had been cheap petroleum at newly inflated OPEC-controlled world prices left a windfall to the petroleum industry. This was controlled not by passing legislation but simply by the persuasion of the arguments that it was totally unfair and unacceptable. We did not undertake—and it was found not to be necessary in spite of the fact that I was urging it—that they would not pass it through. They decided and agreed not to pass those prices through.

At the same time, just as the increases began to moderate a bit, the former government of Ontario, the Progressive Conservative government, decided to replace the specific gasoline tax with a 20 per cent ad valorem tax. The gasoline tax went from 19 cents a gallon just about double to 37 cents a gallon in about four years. This added tremendously to the costs, and it prompted us as a party to promise to remove the ad valorem tax.

The former Minister of Revenue, in his own inimitable style, is giggling because he may in the next few minutes make a speech indicating some dark and subversive motive to the fact that we kept this political promise. But even at that stage the honourable member would know that, as of May 9, the following were the gasoline taxes charged across Canada: in Ontario, 8.3 cents a litre; in British Columbia, 8.56 cents a litre; in Quebec, 13.65 cents a litre; in Manitoba, 8.9 cents a litre; in New Brunswick, 9.7 cents a litre; in Nova Scotia, 9.7 cents a litre; in Prince

Edward Island, 9.5 cents a litre; and in Newfoundland, 10.9 cents a litre.

Members will notice that, with a possible argument about Manitoba, which has an 8.9 level only for leaded and has eight cents per litre tax for unleaded, we are the lowest-taxing province in the whole of the country.

**Mr. Ashe:** What about Alberta?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Alberta is not a taxing province. Its tax is zero, as it is in Saskatchewan. Because of the propinquity, they cannot live with a gasoline tax in Saskatchewan, since their neighbours next door do not have a gasoline tax. That may or may not change; I hope it does not. I just want to tell those who are handing me the petitions from the Ontario Motor League calling for a reduction in tax that we have the lowest tax of any taxing province in Canada.

That should be understood. At the same time, we should realize that the revenue from all of our fuel tax is approaching \$1.3 billion, a big pile of money. I compare that with the budget allocated this year to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, which is up by more than \$160 million, with a special allocation of \$45 million for capital projects, something to which the province has not had access for many years.

**Mr. McLean:** Yes, it has.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It has not. This is a substantial improvement. We are going to improve our roads around here.

I say to the people who are supportive of the Ontario Motor League and its important initiative, while we do not have earmarked revenues in this province, we are passing through more than the amount collected in gasoline tax in support, maintenance and building for capital reasons for our road program. The people who drive on the roads do not want to pay gasoline tax, but they want good roads. I can understand that.

As Minister of Revenue and Treasurer, it is up to me to bring forward programs, and it is up to members of the Legislature to criticize and support programs that are designed to maintain and improve a good road system. I say again, we do not earmark our revenues, but the thought of reducing our gasoline tax by the \$300 million proposed by the official opposition seems irresponsible when we look at what we wish to do in northern Ontario as well as in southern Ontario to improve this system and bring it up to modern standards, from which it has slipped in recent years.

There are those who believe a reduction in gasoline tax is immediately reflected in lower pump prices. I am sure members know that is not



so. If members have travelled in Alberta recently, where the gasoline tax is zero, they will know the cost per litre is very similar to what they would pay in Toronto or even at Earl's Shell service in the township of South Dumfries. It may be a cent per litre cheaper, but the last time I was out there, the prices were almost identical, even though we charge an additional tax of 8.3 cents per litre.

The government of Alberta gets substantial revenue from petroleum as it comes out of the ground. It feels it does not need a gasoline tax on top of that, and that is its judgement. It does not make the product at the pump cheaper, and of course, we pay the tax on Alberta petroleum as it comes out of the ground in the markup on the gasoline that is put in our cars and trucks in this jurisdiction.

I want also to point out something else. As of last year, the standard fuel bill for Ontario was about \$6.6 billion. That is all in petroleum, except for natural gas. It is about another \$3 billion when we are talking about the other forms of petroleum. World prices have gone down rapidly, and between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion that would have been expected to go into petroleum costs in this province a few months ago are now windfall savings for people driving automobiles and fuelling industry. Particularly in industry, I am glad to report to honourable members, a good deal of that money is going into economic expansion. That is one of many reasons, probably the main one, for the economic buoyancy I reported in the budget two or three weeks ago.

I am particularly concerned about the reference in the special motion to the costs of gasoline in northern Ontario. We all share that concern. I used to live in Sault Ste. Marie. That was not recently, but I can report that the prices per gallon there were at least five cents above those in Toronto. Our argument was that it came in by tanker on the Great Lakes, but the additional costs were not that much. We complained about it in those days. It was many years ago, but there was still a PC government, as everybody knows. Sault Ste. Marie was not a city of 85,000 then; it was more like 40,000, but there were still additional costs and market forces made them as they were.

To give the PC government credit, it reduced the cost of licensing in the north. I am not sure what it is now, but it may be \$10 or \$12, as compared to what is paid in the rest of the province. This is a bit of a subsidy, and it covers a good deal of gasoline tax for a person driving for

a year. We recognize that. I think it is a good idea. If anything, not only should that be maintained but also there may be other ways to improve on it. To go into the north and say we are going to take off the gasoline tax is not going to lead to lower prices, and that is unfortunate.

**4:30 p.m.**

**Mr. Ashe:** There is no doubt about the importance of this issue. The thing that bothers the members of the opposition, and particularly the members of the official opposition, is the kind of flip-flop that has been taken by the government, particularly the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter), vis-à-vis this total issue. In a moment I will get to the remarks by the Treasurer and Minister of Revenue and his participation in what is happening at the pumps, but for the moment I will concentrate on the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

It is very convenient when the minister can wash his hands of the issue on one day and say he can do nothing about the prices at the pump and he is not sure the prices can be substantiated, yet on another day he can stand up and take credit for the fact that he was the one, practically individually—maybe hand in hand with his colleague who sits two seats over, with a longer hand down to the Treasurer—when prices went down some number of weeks ago.

We have had two occasions lately when there have been relatively dramatic increases in the price at the pumps to the beleaguered consumers of Ontario.

I suppose five or six weeks ago was the first time the Premier (Mr. Peterson) spoke out, answering a question and in the scrum afterwards, saying, "I am directing my Minister of Energy to head west to speak to the oil barons of Alberta to see why the price at the pumps of Ontario has not gone down, and I have directed my Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to speak to the oil industry of Ontario, say how unhappy we are and suggest that the prices should come down immediately."

Lo and behold, about 24 hours later there was a substantive change at the pumps. The price went up by about 2.5 cents a litre—not down, but up. Immediately, of course, that was attributed to other market forces. The minister washed his hands of any involvement in that. He acknowledged that he had spoken to the industry, but he could not answer why it went up by 2.5 cents. Once again, market forces took over.

There is no doubt, and I do not think anybody would dispute it inside or outside the industry,



that the greater Metropolitan Toronto area—and I mean that in the broadest sense, right down into the Niagara Peninsula, east to Peterborough and north from there and so on—is a very competitive marketplace.

The prices came down slowly. Until about a week ago, we saw prices for regular gasoline in the Toronto market at something in the order of 35 cents a litre; 34.9 to 35.9 cents a litre was not uncommon, and in very competitive areas in southern and southwestern Ontario, I understand it was as low as 33.9 cents a litre. The marketplace was showing and the consumers of Ontario were benefiting from that rather slow pass-through, which everybody acknowledged. The minister inquired and reported back to the Legislature that it took anywhere from 75 to 100 days for the lower prices in world markets to hit the gasoline pumps. That time was bought, the market forces took over, the pass-through took place and the consumers of Ontario benefited.

A few days ago, the minister must have been talking to the Premier again. The Premier probably said, "You had better make sure these prices stay down." I do not know that this happened—I am just speculating that it might have—because overnight, 35 cents a litre—34.9 cents is a pretty standard price for self-serve gasoline—went up to 41.5 cents a litre. That is a substantial difference. It was up 6.6, seven and in some cases as much as eight cents a litre. What was the explanation? The minister once again said: "I am not sure whether it is justified. When I have some answers, when the prices go down again and I can stand up and take credit, maybe I will have the answers then."

That is not good enough. The minister cannot take credit one day and not take responsibility another day, but that is exactly what he is doing. He is trying to have his cake and eat it too. In the meantime, the consumers of this province are paying and paying and paying.

Let us get to the tax issue. The Treasurer and Minister of Revenue stood up a short time ago and said, "In Ontario, we have one of the best pricing structures as far as taxing in Canada is concerned." That is relatively true, as are the numbers he spoke of. However, he is one of the same people, supported by my colleagues on the left, who from time to time, but regularly, criticized the previous government's policy of an ad valorem tax rate.

Ad valorem is right up front; it says, "Taxation shall be in direct proportion"—in this case 20 per cent—"to the cost of gasoline before taxation at the pump." People knew that when the price went

up, the tax went up and the tax yield for the taxpayers of Ontario went up. The reverse of that also holds true, and when the price goes down, the taxpayers pay less at the pump. That would be recognized.

When the Treasurer brought forward his budget last fall, which was supposed to be so sound and which was soundly supported by the New Democratic Party to the left, he compromised and brought down his tax from 8.8 cents to 8.3 cents a litre. We said then that all the indications in the world market were that there was a glut on the horizon and that prices were going to go down.

If the Treasurer, members of the government party and members of the New Democratic Party had wanted to be true to the spirit of their previous criticism, they would have said, "We will set 8.3 cents as the maximum price, but if the price goes down, we will respect the spirit of ad valorem and lower our tax accordingly." Did they do that? No, they did not. They knew darned well what was going to happen, but they stuck the blade in and froze it at 8.3 cents a litre.

Let us look at some of the recent prices to see what they would have been with an ad valorem tax rate. Until a week or so ago, the price was 34.9 cents a litre, which included 8.3 cents in tax; that meant a net price of 26.6 cents. If ad valorem had been in effect, it would have been 5.3 cents a litre, or three cents a litre less; the market price would have been 31.9 cents. Even now, it is 41.5 cents a litre, an unconscionable price compared to what it was a week or so ago, but that includes the same 8.3 cents a litre for a net price before provincial tax of 33.2 cents. What would happen if ad valorem were in effect? The price would not be 41.5 cents; it would be 39.8 cents, or 1.7 cents less per litre.

The Treasurer and Minister of Revenue cannot wash his hands of the problem that confronts consumers in Ontario. He mentioned a loss of \$300 million if they had reverted to an ad valorem system or to what was proposed by the Ontario Motor League. It is very convenient or coincidental—maybe it is not so coincidental—that this seems to be the same amount of revenue that is lost in his budget, the slush fund. He could have thrown that slush fund in to take care of the problem. It would not have made one iota of change in the bottom line of that budget.

We know the part that the oil barons play in this issue, whether they be the oil barons in Canada, Britain, Saudi Arabia or wherever. We know how a so-called undersupply became an oversupply as people became very conscious of



the cost and became more conservation-minded in energy—in all ways and not just in gasoline, but that is the subject today.

This government cannot wash its hands of this problem. If it wants to stand up to take credit, it also has to stand up to take blame. I put some responsibility on the minister opposite to get the answers he says he is looking for, to get them now while the price is up and to get the price down tomorrow to a more realistic level. Perhaps 35 cents was not realistic. I will even agree with him that perhaps that price could not be substantiated. But I think we all agreed when we talked a short while ago that something in the order of 37 to 38 cents was reasonable and responsible. The minister should get it back down there quickly.

**4:40 p.m.**

**Mr. Swart:** I am pleased to take part in this debate. A matter that has concerned the New Democratic Party for many years is the fact that the oil companies in this province have been able to charge whatever they liked and have never had to justify it. Of course, it has been of more concern to us in the past three or four months, when the price of crude has dropped dramatically to less than half what it was and yet the price of gasoline has not dropped proportionally, even if one wipes out the taxes and considers just the raw price of gasoline.

This is a very important matter, as the previous speaker mentioned. If the price of gasoline is eight cents a litre higher than it should be—I am not suggesting it is, but it is substantially higher than it should be—it means the people of this province who are consumers of gasoline and oils will pay about \$4 million a day too much.

**Mr. Ashe:** A day?

**Mr. Swart:** A day. If it is four cents too high, it is \$2 million a day, and there is probably reason to suspect the price at present is about four cents too high.

There is justification for believing this at present. There is all kinds of statistical information available to indicate that the price is substantially higher now than it should be. The price of crude oil is less than half what it was back in November 1985. I have the figures here, week by week, on the price of crude oil. Back in November it was US\$31 a barrel. The February average had dropped to US\$14.75. The March average was US\$12.27, the April average was US\$13.13 and the May average so far is US\$15.52.

Unlike the minister, I am not one who takes the oil companies at their word and believes every-

thing they tell me, but even if we do and assume that it takes three months to pass this through, we are working on February oil prices, which were down from US\$31 to US\$14.75. I realize the price of gasoline cannot be cut in half because the price of crude oil is cut in half, but I suggest to the minister and to everyone in this House that the reduction of 10 cents per litre between November and now—and that is the real reduction in Ontario in the retail price of gasoline—does not reflect that decrease in the price of crude oil.

If we need some more information, we have the statement by David Sellers, the president of BP, who said that if the oil companies were not making any more profit than they had been last year, the price of gasoline would be around 35 cents. Members will know he made that statement either early in April or in the latter part of March. What about Jack MacLeod, the president of Shell Oil, who said they were keeping two cents or three cents a gallon, skimming it off the drop in the price of crude instead of passing it on to the consumers?

We know too that the profits of the oil companies last year, on average, increased quite substantially. I am aware, and I say to the minister, that many of those same companies have had a substantial reduction in the price of their crude in the west and they are not making as much profit on it as they were. But that is the world price, and it is simply unfair to the people of this province and to the people of this nation to skim two, three or five cents—whatever the situation may be—off the refinery price to make up for the losses they may have on the price of crude oil. There is no question about it; that is exactly what they are doing.

I was amused by the comments of the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor) who got up to defend the marketplace but then talked about the manipulation of the price of gasoline. He cannot have it both ways. If the marketplace is working, there cannot be manipulation of the price of gasoline. The simple fact is that the marketplace is not working at present to protect consumers. There is very little competition because we have very few oil companies and they have decided on their own not to compete.

**Mr. Runciman:** Why?

**Mr. Swart:** There are a number of reasons. One of the reasons they do not compete is that we do not have enough companies refining here. Studies in the United States have shown that once one gets below five companies in the marketplace, real competition does not work. The



minister must know the only time competition is working is during occasional price wars.

At present, competition is not working. The Treasurer, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), proved that in his statement. He said that when the price of crude went up, the oil companies immediately raised the price of oil, even though they were not going to use it for another three months. If competition had been working, they could not have raised the price of oil. It is simply not working. Therefore, we need some kind of control.

The inaction of the minister has been absolutely pathetic. The first argument that was given for several months by the minister was that the provincial government did not have the power to do anything about it. The minister said that in answer to questions in the House.

The minister said it so often he convinced his own Premier. On April 26, the Premier said: "Our real problem in gas prices is that we do not have control over them. They are a federal matter. The reality is that we do not have the power." A month later, largely because of what the minister said, the Premier rose and apologized to this House for having made an incorrect statement. It is in Hansard. I have it here. He said that in fact the government did have the power.

After the Premier said that, the minister could no longer say we did not have the power, and then he flip-flopped all over the place. He wrung his hands for a time and said: "We should not have these increases. It appears to me the price should not have gone up. I am going to meet with the oil companies." He did meet with them around April 1. When he came out of that meeting, he said he had asked the four executives, "Do gas prices truly reflect what is happening in the world oil markets?" Then he reported, "The most interesting thing I learned was that there is no direct relationship between the price on the world market and at the pump." That is what he told the press afterwards. He went on to say it was reported to him by the oil company executives, "The prices at the gas pumps are now lower than they should be." That is a quote from the minister. He did not deny that. He did not say, "I do not believe it." That is what he was telling the public of this province.

Even the Conservative Party is doing a bit better than the minister. The Treasurer has done a bit better than the minister. In fact, the Treasurer was misinformed. He was telling this House that no legislation had been passed. However, legislation was passed in 1975. I have the bill here. The bill was given third reading on July 7,

1975, and it provided that the price of gasoline could not be raised before September 30, 1975. We passed the legislation. That was when the now Treasurer made his comment that we should have such ongoing legislation.

That is what we need. We need ongoing legislation, because the marketplace is not working. People are paying too much for gasoline and for fuel and diesel oils. If the marketplace is not working and they are paying too much, as the minister himself has indicated, the alternative is to put in some kind of controls and use the power he has to protect the public of this province.

**4:50 p.m.**

**Mr. Offer:** It is a pleasure to rise and participate in this debate. I want to start by assuring my friends in the opposition parties, those who have spoken before and those who will continue, that the issues they have brought forward today are issues that are well known to this government and, in particular, to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter).

Let me tell my friend the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) that the minister is responding in a manner that is both responsible and realistic. There is the equation: responsibility and realism. Once more, he is demonstrating a sensitivity to how the issue affects all the people of this province. He is doing that by learning and knowing all the issues—

**Mr. Swart:** In what way? What is he doing? Tell us. Explain what he is doing.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin):** Order.

**Mr. Offer:** What?

**The Acting Speaker:** Continue.

**Mr. Offer:** Thank you. I did not want to be provocative.

The issue before us affects all persons in this province. It is reflected not only in the price we pay at the pump but also in the prices we pay for food, clothing and housing. Indeed, it permeates all phases of life within this province. The motion we have before us is to debate with respect to gasoline pricing. It seems the person who has brought such a motion is encouraging regulatory practice, restriction of competition and a lack of freedom in the marketplace. That is not to say we are not aware of the issues and aspects surrounding this matter. We are aware in a realistic and responsible manner that there is a discrepancy with respect to north-south pricing, and that regulation does not always have an



advantageous effect; it can be disadvantageous to all persons in this province.

In discussing this issue, we realize we must have regard to the pitfalls of lowering competition, what its effect might be and what price we might have to pay if one embarks on a course by having government lessen competition. There is a relationship that must be explored and investigated between crude oil prices and gasoline prices. We have to investigate that relationship and how one affects another and evolves. Finally, we must have regard to the effect of gasoline price wars as to why, where and how they occur.

To ignore these aspects is not to be realistic or responsible. I believe the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has acted in a most realistic and responsible manner because he is aware of all these problems that can evolve because of the lack of not investigating these elements and aspects that are contained in part of this motion.

Of course there are differences with respect to pricing in the north and in the south. Because there are differences necessarily requires an investigation as to why there are differences; the question should not just end there, that there are differences and that there should not be. It is irresponsible and unrealistic not to look at the reasons for the differences that appear between north and south and at the differences that appear in prices among southern Ontario, eastern Ontario, central Ontario and the western portions of the province.

We cannot leave the question at differences. We have to investigate why there are differences. When we talk about differences in prices, we have to investigate whether extra costs are incurred. We must talk about market factors that are existent or nonexistent in the north as opposed to the south, central, western and eastern Ontario. Not to do that is to blind ourselves to what is going on and is to be unrealistic and irresponsible. We will not be that. We will investigate these problems because we know that "because there is a difference" is not the end result; it is the beginning of an investigation.

We know it is nice to say, "Let us regulate." We also know the price of regulation may be a price that is too high to pay for persons throughout this province or in the north. It may be a regulated price as Nova Scotia regulates prices, and its prices are among the highest in the country. It may be uniform pricing as we find in Italy, but private sector companies have with-

drawn from remote areas and there has been a lessening of the freedom of competition.

We know the price to be paid, the price we all pay, if we blind ourselves to what happens when someone withdraws from freedom of competition. We know the lesson we saw with respect to Petro-Canada. With the removal of one competitor from the marketplace, there was a large decrease in price war activity. Price wars are applauded and looked forward to by persons throughout this province. With a lack of competition, we will have a lack of price war activity. We know that not to take a look at and investigate this aspect is not to act in a responsible manner.

We also realize there is a difference between crude oil prices and gasoline prices. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations especially understands the makeup of these differences and that it is not sufficient to say, "There should not be a difference." That is irresponsible and unrealistic and is not what the people of this province want. As the minister knows and is doing, they want an investigation as to why it is. What are the elements of those types of differences? Are they realistic and responsible?

We know we always have to be cognizant of the effect of gasoline price wars. They have become a regular occurrence at irregular times in competitive markets, especially in southern Ontario. They are looked forward to and are applauded by many people throughout the province. When we lessen the freedom of competition and when we lessen the number of people who partake of this market, we lessen price war activity.

These are some of the issues this government and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations understand. These items and aspects must be understood before anyone can properly, responsibly and realistically meet the concerns of the people of this province. In closing, I want to applaud the responsibility of this minister.

**5 p.m.**

**Mr. Stevenson:** I am very pleased to join this critical debate today on the situation of gasoline pricing. As we look at what has happened in the past few weeks and, indeed, in the past few days on gasoline pricing and try to examine what the government might have done or could do, it is important to look at the provincial budget to see exactly what the province can do in situations such as this, what money is available to it and so on, to address some of the problems gas pricing creates. I will give a few examples from southern Ontario, but because of the great distances



involved, everything magnifies substantially when one transfers the situation to the north.

I want to point out to the House that the province has 32 different sources of income. There is taxation revenue. Under taxation revenue, there are 12 sources of income, such as personal income tax, retail sales tax, corporations tax, gasoline tax, diesel fuel tax and so on.

Under other revenue, there are items such as the Ontario health insurance plan premiums, Liquor Control Board of Ontario profits, vehicle registration fees and so on. There are 12 other sources of revenue in that section of the budget. By the way, this is the budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon); it is not my document.

The third major area of income is transfers from the federal government. Under that, there are eight sources of revenue.

If we look at the Treasurer's own table of revenue inflow into the province's Treasury from the last budget until this one, of the 32 sources of income, three are down, three are even and 26 are up. That will give members some indication of what the economy is doing and what the inflows are.

With a 4.2 per cent growth, which the Treasurer used and which everybody admits was extremely pessimistic, he somehow or other cooks the budget to have an expected total inflow in this coming year of less than the past year. If he were going to fudge the books, why did he not cook them so at least they looked realistic? The point I am leading to is that from the last Tory budget of 1984-85, just two years ago, and using the Treasurer's own figures, which we know are unrealistically low, the revenue to this province is up by 22 per cent in those two years.

**Mr. McGuigan:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The information we are being given is all very interesting, but what has it to do with regulating the price of gasoline as we would regulate the retail distributors?

**The Acting Speaker:** That is not a point of order.

**Mr. Stevenson:** That is precisely the point I am coming to.

There is a 22 per cent increase in revenue which the government has at its disposal to use for something useful for the people of Ontario. We look at some of the things it has done—and I do not argue with some of them—but with the increases in revenues from the last Tory budget, the \$40 million from the gasoline tax and the motor vehicle fuel tax up \$40 million, some of those funds could have been used to even out

some of the disparities and some of the problems in northern Ontario.

I wonder why the New Democratic Party members from northern Ontario chose to vote with the government in the fall budget of 1985 in supporting a freeze of the gasoline tax at its highest value. We said repeatedly at that time that the prices of gasoline and crude oil were going to be decreasing. The members can check any number of our speeches at that time. Very clearly, the government did not believe that was going to happen. It has happened. Now, it has an absolute windfall of money that could have been used to address some of the very critical problems in northern Ontario and our resource industries here in southern Ontario. It could have been used to try to deal with the tremendous impact of these fuel prices on industry and to help it out but, no, it chose not to do that.

Very briefly, I want to mention tourism. Unfortunately, I missed some of the earlier portions of the debate, but tourism is very important to the riding of Durham-York. It is also extremely important to northern Ontario. When we look at people coming from the Golden Horseshoe area, the Metro Toronto area, into the area I represent, which has a part of Lake Simcoe and a part of Lake Scugog in it, we are talking about a one- to two-hour drive.

The cost of travelling is not excessive, but it is also safe to say that people look at those costs when considering how they are going to spend the disposable portion of their income for the family. When they consider travelling, the cost of travel is a very real consideration. When we expand the situation to those people going to northern Ontario and consider the tremendous distance involved in getting up there, plus the tremendous distances between towns and attractions when one is there, as well as the significantly higher cost of fuel, it seems to me there could have been some way in which the government might have assisted in dealing with that situation and in helping the tourist industry of northern Ontario. It could use some considerable help, because it is a very important part of the economy of the province and, more important, is an absolutely vital part of the economy of northern Ontario.

Agriculture also is a very significant sector. However, let us not limit it to agriculture; let us talk about the resource industries, many of which right now are in pretty serious financial situations. Certainly, agriculture is in one of the most critical economic situations since the Depression, and when we look at mining and at various



other areas, we see none of them is smiling all the way to the bank at this time. The cost of transportation in resource industries is a very significant portion of their budgets. In a farming operation, many times it costs more to keep the car and the pickup truck on the road than it does to do the ploughing, the cultivating, the planting, the harvesting and maybe the drying of the crops that are harvested on those farms. I am sure the situation is very similar in many of the other resource industries of northern Ontario. Again, the problem could have been addressed by assisting with the controlling of prices and by looking seriously at the price of fuel and gasoline in Ontario. However, despite this tremendous windfall of money, the government has chosen to do nothing about it.

In my area, commuters buy many houses. Many of them are young couples coming out of the Golden Horseshoe area, moving out of apartments and buying their first houses in my area. It helps with the housing situation. If we cannot keep fuel prices under control, we are not going to have those young people buying in that area the way they have done this year. That is something we must continue to give positive assistance to so as to ease some of the housing problems in this area. Therefore, I cannot help being critical of the way this government has handled its financial resources.

**5:10 p.m.**

**Mr. Charlton:** I rise to speak this afternoon in what I consider to be a very important debate, but it appears that most of those speaking in this very important debate have failed to understand its importance.

It amazes me that many of us appear to have learned absolutely nothing from the past 13 years in the world of oil. All through the 1970s, while oil prices were escalating dramatically, we saw repeatedly in this province, right across this continent and, for that matter, right around the world the impact that oil price increases had on the industrial world, on industry and specifically on manufacturing concerns in our province, in the United States and throughout the western world.

Let me say to those members who were not here in the 1970s—and for those who were, I remind them—that we documented in this Legislature how escalating oil prices and the decline in manufacturing in Ontario ran in parallel. They were directly related.

Earlier this afternoon I heard the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor) speak about the importance of oil prices versus industry in

Ontario on the one hand and yet still try to applaud the marketplace on the other. “Let the marketplace set the price,” he said at the same time as he contradicted himself by saying the market is being manipulated because it does not work.

I suggest to members who are here this afternoon that the marketplace for oil prices in the world has not worked for 13 years. It has been manipulated, it has never stopped being manipulated for 13 years and it continues to be manipulated. There may be different players doing the manipulating from time to time, but the marketplace for oil in the world in which we live has not worked for 13 years. We all know that. Unfortunately, we somehow do not seem able to admit it as regularly as we should.

We had a federal budget in 1979 that caused the defeat of the Clark government, the cousins of those to my right here.

**An hon. member:** The Conservatives.

**Mr. Charlton:** That is right. And so it should have, because the Premier and the Treasurer of the day documented for us what the impact of that budget would have been in terms of job losses in Ontario.

The Clark budget and its impact were only the beginning of what would have come about with either the party to my right or the party across the way in power in Ottawa. All through the decade of the 1970s and right up until last fall, the oil producers in Canada screamed to have regulations removed. They said: “Give us a free market. Let us have the world price. Let us deal in the marketplace.” What has happened since they were allowed to do that? Who is now screaming for help? The oil producers, who spent 15 years telling us they wanted deregulation, they wanted to be able to operate in Canada without regulation and they wanted to operate in a free market.

Is that what the companies that are taking oil out of the ground in Alberta and Saskatchewan are saying now? Are they happy with the free market now? Do they like the way the market is operating, or are they asking Ottawa for help and going cap in hand to Edmonton for help? That is the marketplace everybody in this place keeps defending, and that is the marketplace that has caused such industrial instability for the people of this country, the people we are supposed to represent, and yet the majority of members in this House continue to defend that marketplace that affects the lives of every individual in this province.



In this very important debate, at the very least we can expect to get accurate information from the government of this province. Twice now in this House, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer) have stood up and said that Nova Scotia, where oil prices are regulated, has the highest oil prices in Canada. That is not a fact. As of today, Nova Scotia has the second-lowest oil price in the five provinces east of Ontario. We all know that oil prices east of Ontario have always been higher than in Ontario and west.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** What is the price in Nova Scotia?

**Mr. Charlton:** Nova Scotia does not have the highest price in Canada.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** What is the price today?

**Mr. Charlton:** It is 50.1 cents, and the prices in all the other provinces, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, are higher than that.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** What is the price in Toronto?

**Mr. Charlton:** What does the price in Toronto have to do with highest versus not highest? All I am suggesting is that we in this House expect accurate information. The minister said Nova Scotia had the highest price in Canada, and it does not. That is the relevant point here; so let us not sidetrack. Yes, it is higher than in Ontario; and if I were in Nova Scotia, I would be seeking to deal with that, but I am not. I am in Ontario, dealing with an Ontario situation and suggesting that the minister not try to sidetrack the issue by saying Nova Scotia has the highest price when it does not.

Let us go back to the issue of regulation or no regulation. I sat in this House for nine years, eight of them listening to my colleagues across the way when they were in opposition and to the things they suggested they would do if they were the government. One of those things was the suggestion of the Treasurer that the Ontario Energy Board, which has the powers to carry on a continuing review of energy prices, now and in the future be able to make recommendations to the government so only those increases that are justified actually come about in this province.

The minister wants to do his investigation. The member for Mississauga North said it would be irresponsible to take action now without doing those investigations. However, I suggest that the minister must make up his mind not only to do an investigation to have the facts to know what is going on but also to put in place the mechanism to

continue to do that on a regular basis, so he will not be in a position a year from now, when the next round of whatever happens with oil and gasoline prices happens, where we have to delay month after month because we do not have the information to make a reasonable comment about whether those price increases are justified.

The minister has identified a problem and said he needs to know the answers. We are saying we need the mechanisms in place in Ontario so we have those answers on an ongoing basis and we are not left in the bind we are in now. Energy, oil and gasoline prices are extremely important in the operation of the economy of Ontario. As my colleague has said, roughly \$1 million a day is being lost by the people of this province because we do not know the answers. How much money will have been lost by the time we have done the studies and gotten those answers? It is far too important to leave to chance and the occasional investigation, when we know and repeatedly say in all three parties how important those prices are to individuals in Ontario and to the overall economy of this province.

We have a responsibility to the people of this province to ensure that we are in a position to protect them from unjustified and unwarranted price increases for gasoline or for any kind of oil. We have a responsibility and we have an agency that has the capability of providing that kind of service for us. Let us get on with the job of altering its mandate, giving it the power and letting it do the job on an ongoing, regular basis.

**5:20 p.m.**

**Mr. McGuigan:** I am glad to take part in this debate. I have to note that an hour or so ago it was a most important event that was going to take place in Ontario today, and now the party that made that allegation has only six people in the Legislature.

**Miss Stephenson:** Which is twice as many as you have.

**Mr. McGuigan:** They are the people who think it is the most important item in Ontario. Where is the item of great importance to Ontarians?

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) has the floor.

**Mr. McGuigan:** I want to speak to one issue, and that is the issue of regulating prices. I would not for one minute defend the people who run our refineries and own our gasoline industry or those who concentrate their powers in a number of our industries, such as banking, retailing and insur-



ance. We have in Canada one of the worst records of conglomerates securing a stranglehold upon industry. A very few families control a great deal of the industry and commerce of this country.

We need some competition laws. We have a government in Ottawa that has been in power for almost two years and because of the total confusion of that government, we have nothing in the way of addressing this very serious problem. The government of Ontario is not the proper body to do it but, given default by the federal people, the government of Ontario is looking at this matter.

While we are concerned about gasoline prices, I would suggest the way of lessening competition and the way of bringing about stable prices—and by stable prices I mean those will be high prices—will be by regulating prices. If we want an example of it, we simply have to look at natural gas utilities, which are currently allowed to earn 14 to 15 per cent on the shareholders' equity. The people who control the strings in financial matters will withdraw their funds from any company that does not give them a return of 14 or 15 per cent. They will do it in a cold-blooded manner, regardless of what happens to the consumers or the employees.

When we get into regulated prices, these people have the capacity to bamboozle us and bring out figures that will prove their prices are justified. If we want to see gold-handled faucets in the executive washrooms, look to those companies that have regulated prices. I, along with other members of the Legislature, happened to be a guest in the executive suite of Bell Canada at the tower down University Avenue a few years ago. That is one of those regulated industries. We saw luxurious offices at the top of that magnificent building. That is all built into the regulated prices. If we want to see executive jets poised on the runway, look to companies that have regulated prices, because they have them regulated high, not low.

I am old enough to remember the example of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Under the conditions at the time of calling upon the best factions of the country to try to maintain prices, with the pressure of the war along with the pressure of regulation, prices were maintained fairly well. People said: "Wait until the war is over and these regulations are taken away from us. That will be our day. We will really boost the prices of our commodities upwards." What happened? The sheikh from Welland will recall, he is old enough.

**Mr. Barlow:** The member is getting tough on the oldtimers here.

**Mr. McGuigan:** We oldtimers are tough, and we have long memories. We are long in the tooth but long in the memory too.

What happened when those regulations were taken away was that prices went down. They did not go up; they went down. There is a psychology in the public mind: "This is a regulated price. We have government commissions, lawyers and economists looking at it—everybody is looking at it—therefore, it has to be a proper, acceptable price." They accept those prices. When they removed the wartime regulations, competition came in and prices went down. There is a reason for that; it is called market share.

If people in the New Democratic Party were business people, they would have some idea of what market share does to the bottom line of a company. If one can add a one or two per cent greater market share to one's company, one does not enhance the bottom line by one or two per cent but by an exponential figure that could be 10 or 20 times that, because one has fixed costs. Taxes, insurance and upkeep on buildings all remain the same. Labour changes very little, if any, especially in the refining and gasoline handling industry, because the product is pumped.

All the fixed costs remain the same, but one's throughput goes up and one's profits increase dramatically. At a time when there is a bit of extra gasoline on hand and these companies want to keep their refineries operating because it costs money to stop refineries, it is cheaper to operate them at a bit of a loss than it is to close it down. Whenever those conditions occur, that period is used to try to grab the market share, so we have these price wars.

I have been in the business of supplying supermarkets with various commodities all my life. I know something of what happens during price wars. The real aim is to get more people through the store or the station, because if one gets them in on the main item, one can also hoodwink them by selling them more windshield wipers, oil, antifreeze and all the high-priced items where there is a real profit. There is a real advantage to a company that engages in a successful price war.

**Mr. Swart:** There is a surplus of gas now. Why is the price not going down?

**Mr. McGuigan:** The sheikh from Welland says there is a surplus. I do not think he knows whether there is a surplus. Neither do I. I am not in a position to say there is. What I am saying is



that in the course of business, there are times when there are extra amounts of material in the system, and they try to get it out.

Another thing that is not so well known is that gasoline will spoil. It is an organic chemical, and after a certain age it can be invaded by bacteria and lose some of its power. Also, during the year the mix of gasoline is varied to comply with the weather; they change the octane or the type of gasoline we burn in the winter as compared to the spring. There are times of the year they want to get rid of that inventory, so they use that to try to buy market share.

My time is up, but I want to conclude by saying that if members want to help consumers, this is not the way the way to do it. I share everyone's interest in wanting to help consumers, but as a person who has been in business and who has watched this, it is the wrong way to go.

**5:30 p.m.**

**Mr. McLean:** I am pleased to join this debate initiated today by my colleague the member for Leeds. We are having a very important debate on gasoline prices.

During the past several weeks I have observed what has been in the press and what the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has been saying. He has been talking very strongly about how he anticipates negotiating and investigating and finding out what the problem is. It is about time we did find out what the problem is. If the minister is not capable of doing that, a commission should be established to look into the matter in depth and find out the problem.

At this time of year we have many tourists coming to my area from the United States and from all over Ontario. The price increase in fuel in the past while will have a bearing on that. It was interesting to note not too many weekends ago, on a Friday night when I went home, the price of gas had increased by four cents a litre. I believe it was the long weekend. On Monday the price of fuel was down by four cents a litre. That tells me something. Gasoline does not fluctuate in so short a time, up and down in three days. The concern I have is that tourists in Ontario are big business, and we want them here. The fluctuation we have in our gasoline prices is not a great attraction for them.

I do not know whether the minister has the power to do anything about it. If he has, I want to hear about it. If he does not, he should tell us so, and we will try to take another avenue to deal with it.

Looking at the increase in the gasoline tax in relation to the trucking industry in this province,

that industry deals with consumer goods every day. If the price of diesel fuel goes up, we pay more for our products. The emergency debate is a lot more interesting and more fruitful than the Treasurer led us to believe when he was making his opening remarks.

A little more than a year ago, there was a statement by the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), then the leader of the official opposition, in which he said, "Fuel prices are a ripoff." It is said the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) "still pursues gasoline price inquiries," and in regard to another minister, "MPP demands gas action: Jim Bradley claims in St. Catharines, 'Consumers are being gouged by the major oil companies.'"

Let us get to the bottom of the matter once and for all. If the minister has avenues he can pursue to do that, fine. I realize he has been to Ottawa and has talked to our federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. He has probably talked to others as well. If there is something he can do, fine. If there is not, then let us appoint a royal commission and deal with it properly.

When we look at the tax increases of last October, there was a proposal for a flat tax of 8.8 cents a litre on all types of gasoline. That flat tax replaced the previously existing ad valorem tax, which was directly linked to the retail price of gasoline. At that time, the Liberals faced stiff opposition from our party and the New Democratic Party, and we got it lowered to 8.3 cents a litre.

The new tax on gasoline is now 8.3 cents a litre. Previously the tax was eight cents on regular gasoline, 8.4 cents on unleaded gasoline and 8.6 on premium unleaded gasoline. The amendment put forward by our party would have replaced a tax of 16.6 per cent on the retail price of gas with a cap of 8.3 cents a litre. As members are well aware, that was defeated.

The price of oil has dropped from approximately \$30 a barrel to \$11 a barrel. If that ad valorem tax had still been in effect, we have heard from previous speakers how much less consumers would be paying for gasoline today.

It costs the resource industries more, but I have to say from my point of view, when I look at the tourist industry, our farmers, our truckers and our resource industries, there has to be a solution to this problem. I hope this debate today will help to do that, because it is for the benefit of all the people in the province to have that done.

**Mr. Wildman:** In rising to speak in this debate, I want to say it is a very important one



and I welcome the introduction of this matter for debate this afternoon.

As members know, we have experienced very high and unfair gasoline prices in northern Ontario for many years. We have had a lot of discussion and talk about it, but as yet we have had no government action to deal with the very serious gasoline price differential between northern and southern Ontario.

It is our view that consumers in northern Ontario, who drive longer distances and have more serious winter conditions over a longer period of time than those in southern Ontario, have to buy more gasoline anyway. By adding to that the very high price of gasoline, we believe northern consumers are being ripped off.

I have before me a list of prices as of January along the Highway 11 corridor, in which I am sure my friend the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) will be interested. I want to emphasize that these are January prices. I admit they have gone down somewhat since. These are prices for regular gasoline: Cochrane, 54.8 cents a litre; Smooth Rock Falls, 54.8 cents; Kapuskasing, 55.6 cents; Mattice, 54.1 cents; Hearst, 54.2 cents; and Hornepayne, in my riding, 61.9 cents. That is outrageous when one considers the price of gasoline in southern Ontario at that time.

I welcome this debate, but I find it rather amusing to listen to the comments from the members on my right and to have that party introduce this for debate at this time. I want to refer to a debate that was held in this House in 1978 on this very matter. It was on a bill that was introduced by my Conservative colleague the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) to equalize gasoline prices across Ontario. He wanted to get rid of the differentials between the north and the south.

I read with interest the comments made by the then Minister of Energy, the present member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz). I will just read a few of his comments into the record:

"There is no doubt that both wholesale and retail prices of gasoline and home heating oil could be made uniform across the province. But this could only be achieved through complete government regulation of petroleum manufacturing, distribution and marketing in this province....To achieve the objective would require imposing regulations on the whole commodity, which they"—meaning the opposition—"would like to see but which is against our"—the Conservatives—"policy and which in turn... would create the need for an evergrowing bureaucracy;...something we're trying desper-

ately to reduce, not to expand....We want to deregulate, not regulate and all the members opposite can think of is regulate, regulate, regulate."

Those are the words of the Conservative Minister of Energy dealing with a debate on getting rid of the differentials in gasoline prices between northern and southern Ontario. I submit that the Conservatives have come to this issue rather late in the game.

**5:40 p.m.**

The member for Ottawa West went on: "Moreover, the accountability for petroleum product pricing would become a direct responsibility of government, which would be a further intrusion in the operation of the market economy." I guess that is what they want. I suppose he was also referring to his colleague the member for Algoma-Manitoulin. He continued:

"Regulating petroleum product prices would undermine the highly competitive petroleum market that does exist in this province at this time. Such a measure could have the opposite effect." He means lowering prices. "That is why I feel the present government's policy should continue and why I cannot support this bill. I would like to assure my colleague and the public that in pursuing our policy of encouraging competition rather than state-imposed regulations, which the members opposite would like to see, on motor gasoline and fuel oil pricing, we will continue to monitor closely the petroleum industry to make certain that a competitive market system will continue to be in the best interests of the consumer."

That is the Conservative policy, despite what they have to say today in this debate. They do not want to regulate. They do not want to touch the industry. I leave members to draw their own conclusions about their seriousness in this debate today.

I would like to turn now to the Liberal government and its policy. As a part of the accord that was signed a year ago today between the New Democrats and the Liberals, the Liberal Party agreed to set up a gasoline price inquiry that would look into the differentials in gasoline prices between northern and southern Ontario. It took eight months for the government to act. Finally, the Ministry of Energy published a study that told northerners what we have known for years. Specifically, it told us that we pay higher prices for gasoline in northern Ontario, which is something we knew all too well.

The study found that the northern motorist can pay about \$130 more a year for gasoline than the



southern motorist, but then the rest of the report tried to justify this difference by elaborating on a few self-evident facts about the north: We have greater distances between communities, and the market is smaller and therefore there is less price competition than in the south.

That report by the Ministry of Energy made no recommendations and had no discussion of options for government action. It simply tried to justify the status quo. Interestingly enough, the study even tried to justify high prices in the Sault Ste. Marie area, where they cannot be explained by geographic location or by small market. In my view, it was a useless exercise.

If the government is serious about equalizing gasoline prices between northern and southern Ontario, it will consider regulating the price of gasoline, but we have heard from the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) time and time again his arguments against regulation and government intervention, the same as the Conservative argument previously.

This whole issue shows us that in many issues these two parties are interchangeable. What the government now says is the same as the Conservatives said when they were the government. Now that the Conservatives are over here, they say the same things the Liberals said when they were over here.

**Mr. Gillies:** You will never be over there, so you can say what you want.

**Mr. Wildman:** Perhaps. At least we speak the truth.

When the Liberals were in opposition, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) urged the Conservatives to expand the powers of the Ontario Energy Board so it could carry on "a continuing review of energy prices and be able to make recommendations to the government so that only those increases that are justified are actually going to come about in this province."

Obviously the member was referring to the situation in Nova Scotia. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has tried to argue that regulation there has meant higher prices. That has been shown to be incorrect, but the important factor from my point of view is that Nova Scotia has a regulation that says no price anywhere in the province will vary more than 1.7 cents per litre above what Halifax pays. In other words, we would not have the great differentials that we have between northern and southern Ontario if we were to follow a similar policy.

After he published his study, all the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) proposed was that he was

going to talk to the oil companies about the price of gasoline, much as the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has done. He suggested he might persuade the oil companies to lower their prices voluntarily in the north. I wish him luck. I doubt very much that the oil companies, out of the goodness of their hearts, are going to give the consumers a break in northern Ontario.

Now we are told that the Minister of Northern Development and Mines is going to institute eight forums in locations across the north. Yet when he announced the dates, for some reason he could not tell me who was going to do it nor the terms of reference of this inquiry. He could not give me a commitment that the government was going to act to lower the price of gasoline in the north after the hearings were completed.

It is time we got away from this crazy and silly political posturing in this House and actually made a commitment to the consumers of this province that we are going to lower the prices in northern Ontario and deal with the ripoff the oil companies are providing to consumers, so that we in northern Ontario and all consumers across the province pay fair prices for gasoline. The government has the jurisdiction. It has the right to intervene; I urge it to intervene. Let us have no more talk; let us have some action.

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** As I recall, every five or 10 years there is a debate on the price of gasoline in the north and in the south. The previous government instituted a royal commission headed by Claude Isbister 10 years ago. When I was mayor, I received a report from Mr. Isbister, telling the previous government what to do about the prices in the north and in the south. I was in business at that time. My companies were buying more than \$5 million worth of gasoline and fuel. I never saw any change or any application of the Isbister report.

At that time, Mr. Isbister told the government, as we were saying today, that there is a difference between the north and the south. He was talking about regional prices. If I recall correctly, there were 13 regions in northern Ontario. In that report, he said there should be one price at the wholesale level, which never happened. I was involved in the chamber of commerce and in politics in the north for more than 30 years. I talked to Mr. Isbister when he was up north, and I read his report. If we are going to try to have a price structure in the north, we have to address those regions.

As members know, the wholesale people today are closing their bulk plants and delivering gasoline in areas such as Kapuskasing. Imperial



Oil is closed in Hearst, and it is delivered there. In Kapuskasing, one pays less than in Hearst for one's gasoline at the wholesale level. Something is wrong. Mr. Isbister touched on that. He touched on the other areas that were touched on this year by the energy report. The small entrepreneur with the small gas station has to take more money for his gallonage.

The other problem I have found in the north, which was touched on by the royal commission in 1975-76, was the difference between the wholesalers. Some were taking five or seven cents; others were working with three or four cents. In the next round, if we are going to talk to companies or do something, we have to look at the regions. There should be one price. I am not talking about the south; I am talking about the north. The south is another thing.

**5:50 p.m.**

Some wholesalers are owned by the companies and others by private enterprise. These should also be at one price. At the time of the Isbister report, when one added the wholesale price and the difference in regions, the difference in price was three or four cents a gallon. When we compared with other areas in the north, at that time, there was 10-cent difference between Timmins and my riding, and we found out the difference was between the wholesale price and the regional price.

**Mr. Swart:** Good idea. How do we bring it about?

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** I am talking personally. We have to close up those two prices in the north, otherwise we will never get—

**Mr. Swart:** How do we do it?

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** We will have to do some hard bargaining. If we can do it with other commodities in the north, I am sure we can find an area of compromise.

I want to answer the question put by the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman). Each public meeting will be chaired by an official from my ministry and will feature a presentation by the Ministry of Energy on the north and south gasoline pricing study and related issues. The principal purpose of the meeting in the north is to seek input from northerners about the impact on them and on the northern economy of higher gasoline prices. We want to know especially how this issue impacts on the lives of the residents of northern Ontario. We all know that, but we want them to participate.

This forum will also provide the opportunity for northerners to discuss the options available to

government to address this issue. I believe that is what we should touch on. I am sure the chamber of commerce and the action group I will meet with on Saturday in Timmins—it is all the mayors from northeastern Ontario—will recall the Claude Isbister report and will ask that those regions be equalized. They have my assurance and that of my colleague the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) that all serious ideas that emerge from these public meetings will be seriously considered.

Another thing I want to touch on in regard to the gasoline issue is that the price varies week to week. This week, for example, the average price for regular gasoline in northern Ontario is 47.5 cents. In Ontario as a whole, it is 47.7 cents. If we look back to January, there was a big gap. Even between Kapuskasing and Chapleau, there was a difference of about 10 cents, and there is no reason for that.

One has to figure out those regions. Seriously, as a member of the government, I will attend those meetings, and the people will submit presentations. That is where we should look if we want to have a price that is going to be closer to the price in the south. For example, in Hornepayne it was 48.9 cents, compared with 43.7 cents in Iron Bridge. In Larder Lake it was 45 cents, in Coniston 44 cents and in White River 45.9 cents. Those are for regular gasoline, but I have all the other prices here too.

I am scared of a monopoly situation in northern Ontario. A couple of years ago in my home town, there were at least eight service stations. Now there is no Imperial Oil and no Esso. We are left with one Shell station, one Husky, one Texaco, and a former Gulf station that was reopened by Petro-Canada. The bulk plants are all walking out. In my home town we are left with only Shell and Texaco active; the rest is delivered from other towns.

We see something going on there. Eventually, when they bid on prices—when I was running my company, we used to ask for bids every year. In the last five years, there was only one bidder on a big contract. That is another danger we have in the north.

**Mr. Swart:** The competition is gone.

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** Yes. We see that too in the prices of milk and other commodities. This is an area I want to report to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) that we as a government will have to watch. It is going on in Hornepayne, in Cochrane and all over the place. After today, if we want the price in northern Ontario to be in line, we have to



work on the areas and to see about the competition; if it is not there, we could be facing big problems in the future.

I remind members that if we had an agreement, and if Petro-Canada were run as it was supposed to have been run, I am sure this recent price increase would not have happened. When it was started by the federal Liberals, I am sure the intention was to keep prices in line and not that Petrocan itself would raise prices. It was supposed to be a catalyst to help us through the bad times. However, the government in Ottawa saw fit to liberalize everything, to give it away to the companies, and now Petro-Canada is acting the same as the others. It should have been kept under the thumb of the federal government, with some direction, and not allowed to do as it pleased. But that is past now and they are doing as others do.

**Mr. Gordon:** I listened very intently to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine), who seems to be apologizing for the fact that he has not been able to do anything. He has been the minister for only a year, but perhaps he is spending so much time flying around northern Ontario in government planes that he does not have time to think about the problems of northern people.

I wonder if the minister checked the price of aviation fuel when he was flying around. I would have thought that after a whole year of flying into every community except two, as he told this House a few weeks ago, he would have noticed there was a problem with the price of fuel in northern Ontario. I think it is shameful, absolutely shameful, that this individual, whom I have to say I respect because he is a minister, would get up and say the kinds of things he said in the House today.

The minister was hopping from one subject to the other. He was talking in an increasingly confused fashion about wholesale prices and what this means in the north. He said the government was going to take one region and pit it against another region and things like that. I am sure Mr. Speaker is confused as well.

That is why I am going to talk about gasoline prices here today. I am going to talk about diesel fuel prices as well, because I do not want to inflame anybody, particularly the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. Nor do I want to inflame any of the pages who are sitting here and listening so intently to this discussion we are having.

I must say, though, I enjoyed the comments of the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan).

Any time I have a conversation with him, I always leave knowing a little more about what is really going on in the world. He manages to cut through a great deal of the guff and get to the heart of the matter.

**Mr. Callahan:** Come on over.

**Mr. Gordon:** Come on over to that side of the House? No. Just because I enjoy the members opposite as individuals, and I do, that does not mean I have to get in bed with their policies. Let us not get incestuous; let us stick to the topic. The topic today is the exorbitant price that people in the north have to pay for gasoline. It is a lot.

To put this on a very human basis, a week or so ago my wife and one of my children drove down here to southern Ontario from Sudbury to attend the graduation of one of my daughters from university. When we left Sudbury, the price of gasoline was about 45.6 cents per litre. When we got to London, it was about 34.6 cents per litre.

**6 p.m.**

I notice the chief government whip, the member for London South (Ms. E. J. Smith), comes from London. She is very conversant with Ontario. I know her husband and his firm have done a lot of good work in Ontario. They built the civic square in Sudbury, and they did a terrific job. I have to say, though, at that time I happened to be the mayor of the municipality and I asked for an investigation into the building of the civic square. I do not mean any offence. I want members to know they did not find any wrongdoing. Everything has gone smoothly ever since. I know she is going to bend every effort to try to help her caucus and her cabinet to do something about the price of gasoline and oil in northern Ontario.

Perhaps Sudbury's prices are a lot less than prices that have been enunciated by one of the New Democratic Party members who talked about places like Kapuskasing, where the price was up around 55.6 cents a litre. I think he mentioned a price of more than 60 cents a litre for gasoline in northeastern Ontario. I have to believe there is some kind of skulduggery going on with these oil companies.

One of the vehicles I drive is a little diesel Volkswagen Rabbit, because I am a very frugal person.

**Mr. Epp:** A foreign vehicle.

**Mr. Gordon:** I confess, I bought it in 1979 before we started having troubles with the car industry.

**Mr. Gillies:** I got rid of mine.



**Mr. Gordon:** I have not got rid of my car, I can tell the member that.

One thing I have noticed is that the price of diesel fuel in the north did not go down one iota when the cost of a barrel of oil went down. It even went up a little. It just shows that because they know they have a much smaller group of people to deal with, those people who drive diesel automobiles, and they feel the trucking market is a captive market, they are going to do what they want. In other words, they are going to have their way with us in the north.

I will take a moment to bring my colleagues up to speed on this subject. I wrote a letter to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio); I would have liked to have written it earlier, but there are so many pressing issues in the north. This issue was one I could finally get to; so I wrote a letter to the minister on February 11. In it, I said: "I am aware that a study is currently being carried out by both the ministries of Energy and Northern Development and Mines with regard to the difference in gasoline prices between northern and southern Ontario."

I had been sitting in on his estimates; so I thought I would remind him of something he said. I wrote:

"During the recent Ministry of Energy estimates, you outlined the general causes for the price discrepancy. Specifically, you stated that the price difference arises out of three areas: differences in wholesale costs, retail cost and market conditions. Certainly, these causes have been defined repeatedly before the study was commissioned. I suggest to you, Mr. Minister, that we in northern Ontario are seeking the reparation of inequities in gasoline prices. I would hope that when the results of the study are published, they will go beyond a mere analysis of the problem and actually provide amendments to price discrepancies."

What happened? I do not want to offend those members sitting on the other side, and I do not want the member for London South to become agitated, but when this study came out—members can just zoom in on that and they can pick it right out of the North-South Gasoline Pricing Study appendices—what did it dwell on? It did not dwell on how we could go about improving things for northerners with the cost of fuel; no, not at all. What did it say? Let me bring this to members' attention again. I know they are interested in this.

The report concluded that the average retail gasoline price in northern Ontario during the period studied was more than four cents a litre greater than the average price in the south. The

report identified several reasons for gasoline price discrepancies between northern and southern Ontario. The most important factor contributing to these discrepancies was the overall size of the two markets.

The size of the two markets; is that all they could discover? We could tell them that time and again. All northerners know there is a difference between the size of the markets. This is one of the things the minister actually found out—north of Steeles Avenue. I do not blame him. I know he is grasping for straws and having a hard time. The consultant the government hired did not know what to do, and the minister said, "Look, you have to do something." I know this is unintelligible. That was the first point.

This is the second thing they found out about the north: "The large numbers and close proximity of retail outlets, combined with a greater number of gasoline brands available in the south, often force competitive price war situations. Such conditions are rare in the north." Let me go through that again. I want everybody to understand what the minister found out. I cannot believe he would write this. This is a press release from the Minister of Energy on the study he did. He found out: "The large numbers and close proximity of retail outlets, combined with a greater number of gasoline brands available in the south, often force competitive price war situations. Such conditions are rare in the north."

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. Gordon:** I was just getting warmed up.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member can continue on another day.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** This is certainly a vital issue to members in our party. I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak on the issue of gasoline prices, particularly those in northern Ontario. This is an issue that has been of serious concern to myself and others in northern Ontario, certainly since I was elected more than a year ago.

I quickly looked up some of the Hansards of the past year, and the first question I asked in the Legislature, nearly a year ago today, had to do with gasoline prices. At that time, the Conservatives were over there and the Liberals were over here.

**Mr. Swart:** It has made no difference.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** That is what we are going to see.

I asked a question of the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), who was then Minister of Energy:



"I am pleased to direct my first question in this parliament to the Minister of Energy. My question concerns a government that has neglected northern Ontario for 42 years, resulting in higher unemployment, lack of industrial diversification and higher costs of goods and services in the north.

"In particular, I question the unfair prices charged for gasoline and home heating fuel in northern Ontario. Why do northerners have to pay eight, 10, and even 15 cents a litre more for gasoline than those people in metropolitan areas in the south?

"Could the minister explain why we can have one price for beer in Ontario but we cannot have fair prices for gasoline and home heating fuel in this province?"

There were a few interjections at that point, but this is the response of the minister:

"I suppose one's definition of what is fair varies, depending on whether one is selling and involved in the industry and the jobs of the industries that are selling, or whether one is in the business of buying."

That was a totally unintelligible answer. This issue was pursued by myself and other members of our party. I followed it up and tried to get a more intelligent answer from the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations the following week.

**Mr. Martel:** Who was that? What was his name?

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** Let me see if I can find it here. It was the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman).

**Mr. Runciman:** I think we have heard this one already.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** We have heard this already, have we?

"I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Last Friday I questioned the Minister of Energy about high prices charged for gasoline and home heating oil in northern Ontario, a serious problem that also applies to many rural areas in southern Ontario."

"The Minister of Energy at that point was rather confused about whether gasoline prices were regulated by the Ontario Energy Board. Perhaps the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is more concerned." I asked again, "Why do northerners have to pay eight, 10 or even 15 cents a litre more for gasoline than those who live in metropolitan areas of the south?"

The answer from the minister was, "It is not an issue I have had an opportunity to review, but I

assume we have to look at the transportation costs involved."

**6:10 p.m.**

In the supplementary, I asked, "Why does the government continue to load further competitive disadvantage and penalties on the people of northern Ontario, compounding the disadvantages they already face, by allowing the oil companies to charge unjustified prices that cannot be explained by the high transportation costs?"

The minister's answer was: "I think they should get together with their friends concerning the competitive disadvantage and the free market system. There seems to be a difference of opinion when one is talking about beer in one instance, as an example.

"Some of the reasons that have been provided to me regarding gasoline prices are simply that you have less competition, higher transfer costs, higher transportation costs and higher operating costs. Gasoline prices are set by competitive prices in the marketplace. Obviously, those guys over there do not believe in the free marketplace. Government intervention is their answer to everything; Big Brother has to be involved in every facet of our lives."

Now the member for Leeds is complaining about the big oil companies and the fact that this government will not take any action against those big oil companies. It is interesting that at that time the Liberals, who were over here, had the chance to ask a supplementary, and I had one from the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), who said:

"Does the minister believe all he is being told on this subject? Has he been talking with his counterpart in Ottawa to find out just when the combines investigation will be reporting on this subject? The people in the combines division feel the gas companies in this province have bilked the people of Ontario of billions of dollars."

That is what the Liberals said when they were on this side asking questions of the Tories, who are over here now. It is Tweedledum and Tweedledee. We have the two parties reversing positions. They reversed sides of the House and they reversed their sides of the story on this issue.

**Mr. Swart:** Is the member for Quinte not the present Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology?

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** Yes, and he stated, "The people in the combines division feel the gas companies of this province have bilked the people of Ontario of billions of dollars." Perhaps the Minister of Consumer and Commercial



Relations (Mr. Kwinter) will have a conversation with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology to get filled in on what the combines division is telling us about the gasoline prices in this province.

This is a serious issue facing residents of northern Ontario and one on which there is unanimity of opinion in the north. Just last fall in a survey of Sault residents, I asked their opinion on gasoline prices. Out of 790 responses to my question "Are gasoline prices much too high in Sault Ste. Marie?" only five said no and four were of no opinion. There is a unanimous response from individuals throughout the community, whether they are supporters of my party, supporters of this party over here or supporters of that party over there, or whether the parties switch back and forth. It does not make any difference.

We have asked this government to take action on gasoline prices. It is time we had some control over a key element of our costs. We have that kind of control on energy prices, when it comes to prices of electricity and natural gas. It is time this province looked at putting some type of control on gasoline prices. We have to ensure that the prices charged are fair, equitable and based on the costs involved. Given the fact that there are no competitive forces in the marketplace, particularly in northern Ontario, we have to ensure that the prices are established on a fair and equitable basis.

When the study was done by the Ministry of Energy on gasoline price differentials between northern and southern Ontario, the results clearly indicated there is no competition whatsoever in Sault Ste. Marie. During a period of two years from the start of 1984 until earlier this year, there was only one change in gasoline prices. That was the increase of two cents a litre in federal taxes that occurred last summer. There was a two-cent increase in gasoline prices; other than that, the prices were absolutely equal.

The numbers were posted on the gasoline stations for more than a year and a half at 52.3 cents a litre for regular gasoline. They had the increase of two cents a litre, and the price went to 54.3 cents a litre. That price was maintained in every gas station in the community, close to 50 stations, without one station breaking prices over the whole two-year period.

I do not know how anyone can claim that gasoline prices are being determined by the marketplace, by competitive forces, when there is no evidence whatsoever of any competition or of any price structure. From what the gasoline

station operators tell me, they are not given the option. They are told what their margin is going to be, and they are told they have to work within that margin. There are no independent operators left in Sault Ste. Marie, my home community. As a result, they do not even look at what the total price is. They are told: "This is what you are going to get it for. You have three cents to work on and that is it."

The prices are being set down in Toronto. It is time that control over gasoline prices is put in the hands of northerners, into the community, so we have competitive forces there, or if there is not going to be any competition—and there is no evidence whatsoever of competition—then we have to see that the prices are regulated on a fair and equitable basis so we do not face the competitive and cost disadvantages facing all consumers in northern Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I thank everybody who participated in this debate. It was interesting. I have a few concerns. I have no problem with my friends in the third party, which has a long and constant history of being very concerned about gasoline prices. That is their position and it has not wavered.

When I did some research, as I am sure members are aware of my doing, I saw that this debate today, although it was not an emergency debate, could well have been carried on over a period of time. I read where Mr. Handleman, Mr. Walker, Mr. Elgie and the member for Leeds were all involved. All of them took their stand on what they felt was the issue of the day.

To find that the members of the official opposition should initiate this debate today is rather bizarre. Notwithstanding that, I think it was worthwhile from an individual basis. As an individual, every member has a specific concern and a justified concern. I appreciate that.

I will try to bring into context where we are today and why we are conducting this debate. In his remarks, the Treasurer talked about the legislation in the early 1970s and why that happened. That was a world in crisis. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries became a factor that threatened the economies of many countries because of the monopoly it exercises and because of the forces on the marketplace.

It was in response to that and what it was doing to the people of all the industrialized nations that the legislation was enacted in Ontario. There was concern, and there was a real thrust for economy. There was talk of rationing. There were lineups at gas stations.



**Mr. Swart:** There were unreasonable increases in prices.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I am agreeing with the member. Not only were they unreasonable but also they were unreasonable to the point where it was threatening the economy of the industrialized world.

We can all remember seeing lineups at gas stations because they were running out and they could not get more because of the controls that OPEC had. That gradually passed, because OPEC started to fall apart internally and we had a situation where new oil discoveries were made, there was a break in the ranks because people had to maintain their economies, and as a result the cartel was effectively broken.

If members saw the papers today, they will know the projections are that the price of oil is going to come down again. It has gone up a little bit now, but the projections are that the world price of crude is going to come down.

**6:20 p.m.**

That brings us to the situation in mid-March. Why did we suddenly have a crisis? I respect the members from the north, who have had an ongoing problem. There is a price discrepancy that is vexatious, to say the least, and very serious, to say the worst. It is a terrible problem, and we have to address it. Notwithstanding that, there was not any great crisis where, suddenly, people were saying, "We are being driven out of business because of the price of gasoline." What they were saying was, "If the price of world crude has dropped to somewhere in the \$10 range, why is it not being reflected at the pumps?" That is not to say the price at the pumps was outrageous. If one asks anybody, "Do you want to buy cheaper gasoline?" he will say, "Of course, I want to buy cheaper gasoline."

It was not as if people were picketing and saying the price of gasoline was too high. They were asking, "Why has the price of gasoline not gone down when the price of crude has dropped so dramatically?" It was in response to this, and only this, that the Premier said to the Minister of Energy, "I would like you to contact the oil producers out west," and he said to me as the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, "I would like you to contact the oil companies here and get the answer."

I am not by any means an expert in the oil business. I do not know the first thing about it. I was sent to find out what they had to say. On March 31, Easter Monday, when most members were enjoying their holiday, I went out and visited all the oil companies. I asked them, "Sirs,

why is it that the price of oil at the pump does not reflect what seems to be the price in the United States and what seems to be the price on the world market?"

At that point, they said to me, "It is because it takes anywhere from 70 days to 105 days for new oil to come through the system to be reflected at the pumps." I said, "Does that mean that if we take that projection that by late April, mid-May, we should see a reduction?" They said, "Yes." I asked, "What do you think it should be?" They said, "It should be on a percentage basis." I said: "That works out to somewhere between 37 cents and 38 cents a litre. Is that correct?" They said, "That is just about where it should be."

I said, "Fine," and I asked: "How about diesel fuel? Why is there such a discrepancy when everybody"—and when I say everybody, that is my interpretation—"knows that diesel costs less to produce than regular gasoline?" They said: "Sir, you are wrong. It does not cost any more, but it certainly does not cost any less. Depending on when it is produced, whether it is produced in the summer or whether it is produced in the winter, the price is the same. The reason there is a price discrepancy is that only three per cent of the people buy diesel, whereas 97 per cent of the people buy gasoline. Because of the economies of scale we do not get the volume, we do not get the production, and that is the reason. Again, it is a market situation. Because only three per cent of people have diesel cars, we have them at a disadvantage. They can only come where we sell the diesel." He reported that to me.

I said: "Can you please do me a favour and put all this in writing to me so we can analyse what you are telling me?" I did not accept it; they did not con me; they just told me.

I came out, and the media asked me, "What is the situation?" I said: "I met with the oil companies. Here is what they say. They say that come the end of April or the beginning of May, we should be at about 37 cents or 38 cents." They said, "Are you happy with that?" I said: "I do not know whether I am happy with that, because I do not know what it means. I am just telling you what they told me."

**Mr. Swart:** Maybe we should have had the investigation.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** They said, "This is the price." No one was more surprised than I when I saw the headline in the *Toronto Star*, "Kwinter Says Gasoline is Going to be 37 Cents," as if I did it. I have never taken any credit for it, and I have never taken any blame for it. I just stated, "This is what they told me." When the price came down,



as it did, to 37 and 38 cents, not one member in this House stood up and asked, "Minister, why is the price at 37 and 38 cents when it should be lower?" whereas I said, "Maybe it should be lower."

**Mr. Swart:** It passed so quickly we did not see it.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** This is what happened. At that point, the other significant situation members should be aware of is that they said: "Because the Metro market is so competitive, we do not really have control of the pumps. Because we have a rack price, because we have people who go over to the United States and buy bulk gasoline, the nonbranded products, and come into the service stations and sell it, we have to compete and as a result sometimes it drives the price and we do not."

The only reason I am concerned now, and I still have not got that answer, is if that is the case, why would the price of gasoline suddenly go up? We are not talking about the 33-cent gasoline, because that could be the effect of price wars, but gasoline in the 37- to 38-cent range. Why has that suddenly gone to 41 cents when by the company's own admission the new gasoline should be through the system and it takes that long for it to come along?

All I have done is gone back to them and asked, "Why?" I have written a letter to Michel Côté and said, "Is there some kind of issue here under the Combines Investigation Act?" It does not make any sense. I am not defending them. I am just saying, I am acting as the agent, as the minister responsible, and trying to get to the solution. They may be able to justify it.

I have said in the House, who is to say the price of gasoline in Toronto is not where it should be? I do not know. All I know is it does not make any sense that if, according to their statement, it takes 75 to 105 days for the price to be reflected at the gas pump, how could it suddenly go up by two cents overnight when there has not been that change in the price of fuel?

That is where we are today. We are working on it. We are trying to get a resolution. I welcome the debate; it has been interesting and informative. The Minister of Northern Development and Mines will do his investigation to get some feedback from the people in the north. That is a problem that is totally separate from the other. That is ongoing. That discrepancy in the price is something that should not be allowed.

As a final note, I want to correct an impression. We talked about the Nova Scotia price of gasoline. At present—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Your time has expired.

**Mr. Runciman:** The minister can issue a press release. He is well known for that.

I want to comment quickly on something the Treasurer said at the outset. He was rather indignant about this debate taking place and resented the fact that his supply motion was going to be delayed. That is ironic. If he had been on this side of the House and been treated in the manner this party was treated over some serious questions the day before, I think we would have seen a lot more than an emergency debate.

The Treasurer talked about having all kinds of opportunities to discuss this issue. The members opposite and their kissing cousins to the left thought it was rather amusing when I was asking what we thought were serious questions in the House yesterday and we were treated with quotes from myself and other members.

**Mr. Callahan:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Runciman:** This man is trying to take up my time, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Callahan:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I believe that member spoke once already.

**The Deputy Speaker:** He has not spoken on the emergency debate.

**Mr. Callahan:** Surely the rules say that each speaker shall have an opportunity to speak?

**The Deputy Speaker:** There is no point of order. That is not a correct point of order.

**Mr. Runciman:** I hope I have that time added on. I have a lot of problems with the way this minister and this government have reacted. I have some sympathy for him because the Minister of Energy should be sharing the can on this and he is not.

We have been criticized. My name was mentioned as was that of the member for Nipissing. As the minister is fond of saying, I was in that role for only about 27 days. He has been there almost a year. We have to take a look at the history and how he has handled this issue over the past year.

I go back to a number of months ago when I asked the minister about Imperial Oil and the issue of removing rack pricing or dealer support. I asked him to take a look at what was going on with the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, at least to take observer status and preferably intervener status, because of the impact that was going to have on the consumers of this province. He declined to deal with that.



We have talked about the oil companies and his negotiations or dealing with them. I have suggested he was conned and duped by those people. He was in awe of them, and I think the facts prove that to be the case.

We had a situation the other day where Suncor was first off the mark in increasing prices. He expressed surprise. He has not been on top of this issue. He has been on top of this much as he was several months ago when he was asked about the Ghermezian brothers and he described them as a couple of rug dealers from out west.

The minister complains about the federal government, but this is a major concern in this province. He has to start carrying the ball on this. His government has to start carrying the ball on

this. He was quoted in the paper today as saying, "I agree, but I do not think we can slough it all off on to the federal government." I do not believe the feds are carrying the load on this, but I think we can start to do something about it. This government can start to do something about it.

The minister talked about public suasion being effective. I completely agree with him. We must air this very effectively at the provincial level; I am not sure what the vehicle is, but I suggested a public inquiry. That may not be the most appropriate vehicle, but we have to do something. The minister has to act.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Your time has expired.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



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No. 22

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**  
Thursday, May 29, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 29, 1986

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS SENIORS' INDEPENDENCE ACT

Mr. Warner moved second reading of Bill 3, An Act for the Provision and Integration of Community Based Services for Seniors.

**Mr. Warner:** I hope to move third reading of Bill 3 later.

**Mr. McClellan:** Later today.

**Mr. Warner:** Perhaps later today.

I wish to thank quite a number of people for the hard work they have done. This bill is not solely the result of my work. It stems from the task force on care for seniors that my party conducted a while ago. The result of the task force was an excellent report called *Ageing with Dignity*, which was released in June 1984. The task force was headed by the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke).

I would like to thank my researcher, Penny Gerrie, for the hard work she has done in helping to prepare this material; the legislative library and, in particular, Robert Gardner, the assistant chief; legislative counsel, who did an excellent job in drafting the legislation; and finally, our head of research, Grant Cassidy, who spent a great deal of time and effort in preparing this legislation.

The question is, why can seniors not live independently? We have done a very curious thing in our country. Over many decades we have found it expedient to institutionalize senior citizens. Canada has, as we all sadly know, one of the highest rates of institutionalization for seniors of any country in the world. The Canadian Medical Association reported that 9.5 per cent of people over 65 in Canada are put into institutions, compared with five per cent in the United Kingdom, 5.3 per cent in the United States and 5.9 per cent in Australia.

"The ageing of the population means that if current trends continue, the system will grind to a halt," warned Dr. Rory Fisher, co-ordinator of geriatrics at the University of Toronto faculty of medicine. "The emphasis has been on maintenance

instead of rehabilitation. Too many people get written off too early," said Dr. James Kirkland, chief of geriatrics at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and director of geriatric services at Toronto General Hospital.

It is quite evident even to the former government that institutionalization is a problem and not an answer. "Many of Ontario's elderly are overdrugged and wrongly institutionalized," according to a study done by the Progressive Conservative Party, which urged extensive changes in the care of the aged. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) claimed there was a wastage of \$855 million a year in the treatment of elderly patients who are placed in inappropriate facilities. The study does not mention that the Conservatives were largely to blame for that inappropriate institutionalization.

None the less, it is quite clear that institutionalization should be the last resort and not the first resort. "Swedish studies indicate that elderly people live longer and in better mental and physical health with so-called health promotion programs," Dr. Gray said. "The evidence from Sweden, where they have done most of the research, is that they are adding years to life and they are adding life to years."

In the research I conducted, I took a look at 26 jurisdictions, most of them in western Europe. The evidence was quite compelling and overwhelming. It is very clear that when senior citizens have the opportunity to remain in familiar surroundings, they live longer and they live better. They have a better quality of life, they enjoy life more, they participate more fully; they feel useful, they feel wanted, they feel loved. The moment we begin institutionalizing is the moment of decline, a decline in emotional health as well as in physical health.

I am not going to dwell today on the horrors of our nursing home system in Ontario. I will save that for another time. However, I think it is quite evident to most members of the assembly that nursing homes in Ontario are in pretty sad shape.

**10:10 a.m.**

The bill that is before the House today provides a framework for the provision of community-based support services for seniors and the integration of these services with



established programs and facilities. It is important to note and for the other members to realize that in this province we do have a variety of good programs available now, but they are not organized very well. There are isolated, good programs, but there is no overall co-ordination.

Until the new government took over, there was no co-ordinated effort for seniors' services. Co-ordination is needed at the top, but it is needed in the community as well. My proposal is that we have a community-based program, that it be integrated and that it provide full services. I like to call it "everything from grass clipping to toe clipping." Whatever type of service is needed by the senior so that he or she can remain in familiar surroundings is what should be provided.

Members will ask how will we do this and how we will accomplish this. I suggest that we take the radical view of reversing the role of responsibility. Here is how it should work, in my view.

I would like to see one telephone number in this province; I suggest the government institute an 800 number, 1-800-SENIORS. The result of a call to that number would be that someone at the other end of the line would do the work. It would be that person's responsibility to find out what the senior needed and how to meet those needs. The senior would make one call.

The member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) knows full well that today a lot of seniors, if they want services, end up making umpteen phone calls, perhaps six or 12 phone calls, phoning different departments, trying to find out where they get help to shovel the walk, for visitor services and for transportation.

Under my proposal, the senior would have to make only one phone call and then let the bureaucrats worry about how to deliver the services. What a dramatic change. We are flipping it around, putting the responsibility where it belongs: on the government to provide the services. The senior then has the opportunity to receive the services required so he or she can remain in his or her own home.

There is such a variety of services possible, both to the senior and, in some cases, to the family housing the senior. In some cases, we have elderly people who require some daily attention, some nursing care, who remain in their home with their families, with their sons or daughters. Part of my proposal allows for people to come in to relieve the younger folks once in a while so they can get out of the house.

One of the things that intrigued me in the research was a program I came across that operates in Norway. Let me say first that when one takes the approach that is outlined in the bill, not only is it better care but it is also less expensive. Institutionalizing is the most expensive form of care.

In Norway, there was a remote village with a very small population which was not about to provide a community centre because it was too expensive. They had half a dozen senior couples who required some help to stay in their own homes. The government hired a couple who lived in the village, a couple with whom all the others were familiar and knew and trusted. This couple's job was to visit the homes of those six elderly couples to provide the care needed—a little help with the housework, with trimming the lawns, with home repairs and so on—so those couples could stay in their homes. It was simple and inexpensive and was welcomed by the elderly couples because it was someone they knew and trusted.

There are some excellent answers, and they are not expensive. We require some imagination and some political will. It is the last part that troubles me. If we want to provide these kinds of services, there is everything from friendly visiting to homemaking, Meals on Wheels, educational programs, dental care, nutritional counselling, financial counselling, interpretation services, exercise programs, home help services, help with errands, psychological and dental services, preventive medical counselling and so on—it is a very long list—all of which are provided for in my bill. If we want to provide these, we have to have the political will to tackle them.

For me, that is not a problem, because first and foremost every person in our society deserves the opportunity to live a life of dignity, and for too many seniors, that has been denied.

There was a very disturbing article in the *Globe and Mail* of June 18, 1985, which indicated that 42 per cent of seniors live below the poverty level: "Their diverse needs are not being met by federal and provincial governments, the five-year study said." This was a very exhaustive and complete study which indicated that in terms of income, the health care system, housing, transportation and a whole list of other things, senior citizens are not getting the type of care and service they deserve and need.

There is a quote from the article: "We have to call upon the provincial government and the rest of the provinces to do something about the urgent needs of seniors across the country." That is a



quote from Reg Screen, past president of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario. "Every senior citizen should have an income that is above the poverty line to live decently." Who can argue with that?

I urge every member of this assembly to support my bill today and, further, to pledge that this bill will go through our committee system this fall and become law by Christmas.

In case members think this is just another private member's bill and will go the way of most private members' bills, I am serving notice today that I will not rest until my Seniors' Independence Act becomes law so that the senior citizens of this province will be able to live independent, dignified lives. That is the least we can do for the people who have built this country for us.

I will take my place and listen intently to the comments of my colleagues. I urge them to have the same resolve as I have so that we can do something better than we have done so far.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere reserving the three minutes and 41 seconds for windup?

**Mr. Warner:** Yes.

**10:20 a.m.**

**Mr. Morin:** I am pleased to rise today to speak on Bill 3, the Seniors' Independence Act. I am sure all members of this legislature share a genuine concern for the elderly in this province. We all wish to help seniors to remain independent in their communities for as long as they can. I am proud to be a member of a government that has set a course to achieve just that: independent living for seniors. It is a government that is committed to providing a system of community-based care responsive to the needs of our ageing society.

Currently in this province approximately one million people are 65 years of age and older. This represents 10 per cent of our population. Within the next two decades our elderly population will increase by 55 per cent, or 500,000. This reality will place an unprecedented pressure on our present system of care.

Our government has responded in two ways to this pending situation. First, we have moved quickly to address a series of short-term concerns related to community support services. Second, to ensure that our system of care will meet the needs of our changing demographics, the government is developing a long-term strategy.

In this past year, the government has placed a high priority on the provision of services for seniors at the community level. To this end, the 1985 Ontario budget provided \$13 million to

strengthen seniors' support services at the local level. This allocation of funds represented a 200 per cent increase. The money was used to enrich such programs as home help, Meals on Wheels and elderly persons centres. Moreover, other initiatives have included funding for underserved communities, seniors' talent banks and a day care program for victims of Alzheimer's disease.

Furthermore, our government has reaffirmed its commitment to seniors with the allocation in the recent Ontario budget of an additional \$13.5 million; \$8 million of that will be spent on enhancing support services, with the remainder on expansion of the regional geriatric assessment units and the creation of a department of geriatrics at an Ontario university.

In addition to strengthening the base of community support services, this government is responsible for implementing the integrated homemakers program. The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) announced the program would commence with six projects and would eventually be expanded province-wide.

**Mr. Cousens:** That announcement was made before this government. Do not think it instituted that.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Morin:** Services offered through this program are based on need and not on a medical or financial test. The integrated homemakers program provides a full range of in-home services, including light housekeeping, cooking and shopping. These services assist seniors to maintain their independence and self-determination.

Let me remind my colleagues in the Legislature that the previous government promised this program to the seniors of this province for more than four years. Only now, under the Liberal government, has it become a reality.

To aid seniors remain in their communities, new nonprofit senior citizens' housing units will be built as part of a Ministry of Housing initiative, affordable housing for Ontario. In this year alone, 1,675 units for seniors will be started.

These initiatives serve immediately to assist seniors to remain in their communities. However, this government is cognizant of the fact that in the near future there will be a greater demand on our system of care for the elderly.

This government is not content to react with patchwork programs to address the needs of seniors. Rather, the government has moved boldly to develop a long-term strategy. As a first



step, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) appointed a Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mr. Van Horne), whose mandate is to conduct a review of services for seniors.

In the near future, the minister will table a white paper on this subject. The paper will provide the framework for the future care of the elderly in the province. The system will encompass a comprehensive approach to health and social services, with an emphasis on reforming institutional and community programs. It is our intent to create a continuum of care.

Additionally, it is the aim of the minister to ensure that services are acceptable and meaningful to individual seniors in their home and community. We must ensure that the system is responsive and more attuned to their needs.

As I have stated, the objectives of this bill are ones I am sure we all agree with: to promote independence, to provide a continuum of support services, to ensure that these services allow seniors to participate in the community and to assist those who have assumed the responsibility of care giver.

These are goals to which this government and, I am confident, all members aspire. However, our government has already aggressively pursued these goals during the past year within the context of the various initiatives I have outlined. Bill 3 would only serve to duplicate this government's actions.

More specifically, Bill 3 calls for the establishment of community health and social services centres at the local level to co-ordinate and arrange services geared to promoting independence. However, this function is already performed by our elderly persons centres as well as by the community health centres. EPCs provide a full range of educational, social and recreational programs, while CHCs provide such services as homemaking, counselling, outreach support and specific disease prevention.

Moreover, programs such as chronic home care, public health nursing, homemaking services and home support services provide a solid base to assist seniors with independent living.

Public health nursing provides assessment, counselling and nursing supervision. Homemaking services provide visiting homemaking and nursing services to the elderly in their homes. Outreach programs attached to the homes for the aged provide meal services and day care. Home support services include housekeeping, transportation and home maintenance services for the elderly.

Clearly, the services this bill attempts to establish have been initiated or strengthened by this government during the past year.

Let me reiterate that it is not the principle of the bill I take exception to. I know how committed and dedicated my good friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) is to this issue. But I find it difficult to support this bill on the ground that it duplicates many services that already exist.

Moreover, this bill tackles only a very small portion of the system of care for the elderly. If our intention is to encourage the independence of our senior citizens, then we must reform the entire system. Our government is doing just that. The focus of our comprehensive plan is to address not only the many principles contained in this bill but also the many other issues that affect the daily living of our seniors.

Our program will be multifaceted, dealing with such issues as housing, transportation and income security, all of which affect the independence of our seniors. It is our pledge to provide a comprehensive plan that will maximize the independence of the elderly in our community.

In the near future we can look forward to the release of the white paper, which will outline our long-term strategy. I am confident my friends on the other side of the floor will be pleased with its results. Working together, we shall build a first-class system of care for our elderly, a system that is responsive to the demographic changes in this province and attuned to the needs of our senior citizens.

**Mr. Cousens:** First, I wish to thank the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil), one of our fellow members, who is the dean of the House and who has asked me to speak this morning in his place. We certainly wanted him to speak to this important bill. I know the member for Grey-Bruce is also a senior. Both of these gentlemen, who continue to serve the people of Ontario, have the spirit of youth and the spirit of rightness for the people of our society. I am honoured to be sharing in this important debate, and I thank—

**Mr. Laughren:** How about the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane)?

**Mr. Cousens:** Is he getting on? I do not believe it. I did not mean to miss him. The way he plays hockey—

**Mr. Laughren:** Do not forget yourself.

**Mr. Cousens:** I am not at that point yet.

I thank the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere. Although we might disagree on some



of the details, the intent and spirit of Bill 3, which he has presented, manifest the direction in which we as a society should be going at this time, and I thank him for his initiative and leadership.

**10:30 a.m.**

I am surprised the speech by the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin) has broken the spirit that this bill could bring to this House. I have never heard such a bunch of gobbledegook and political mishmash as that which the member for Carleton East has just presented. I am ashamed he would bring this down to that low level. His claiming responsibility for programs he probably does not even understand and his feeling about a report that is to come out in the near future are not what the seniors in the balcony and seniors who are aware of what is going on in this province want to see. They want to see action, and they want to see us as legislators build on the system we already have in this province.

We begin with a sense of pride that we live in the wealthiest province in Canada. Our wealth is in our people and our resources. It is in our seniors who have helped give us this society and this foundation that make this the land it is today. We must always be grateful for the leadership our parents and seniors have given and will continue to give. They are not on a shelf. They are not being put away. The idea behind Bill 3 is to let us keep seniors involved in society as part of it, let us keep listening to them and let us continue to have them near us.

Our society evolves. We do not have revolutions in this democratic state of Ontario. We have built a foundation with the Ontario drug benefit plan, the Ontario health insurance plan and the institutions that serve seniors. Our home care program already is serving in excess of 100,000 seniors and costs more than \$73 million. These programs have been instituted over time and can and will continue to evolve to serve our seniors in the future.

I would never for a moment accept that we have reached perfection, but I think the direction in which we are moving through Bill 3 and through the expansion of these services drives home the desires of all of us who, as legislators, should break party boundaries and say we are all 100 per cent committed to the needs and the wellbeing of our seniors. In that sense, we would work together to expand the community-based services.

We all know there are problems. We know the major problem is the lack of funding to do these things. The government sets priorities and says, "We are going to do this or this or this." We have

to begin now to plan for the future and, in planning for the future, to provide a context for our seniors to stay at home. We cannot afford the institutionalization of seniors. There is not enough money in any government's budget to keep moving people into institutions. We should recognize there are needs even now. The waiting lists for chronic care spaces are not being addressed. People with legitimate, real needs are lined up for nursing home spaces and they cannot get in. We must begin to invest in serving those needs. In the meantime, the point of this bill is to expand community-based services.

This bill is presented in the same spirit in which our leader, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), presented a special task force report, *Care for the Elderly: Developing a More Co-ordinated and Community-Based Approach*. I am honoured to be chairman of this task force, and I am pleased there are two other members working with me on this important task force, the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean), who is the critic for seniors, and the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes), who is our critic for Health.

Along with all other members of our caucus, we are working together to see what we can do to develop a policy statement to serve the needs of seniors in the future. We are going to be travelling through the province and meeting with seniors' groups, doctors and different professional agencies to see that we understand and can interpret the needs of our seniors in a responsible and realistic way. We will then be able to enunciate a platform and a policy statement that truly go to the core of the need.

We have a whole section that relates to the terms of reference that are being tied into Bill 3, presented by the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere. It almost appears he has taken some of his points from our paper, and I am honoured and pleased he is doing that. To me, that is the spirit of our democratic system, where we do work together.

One of the points that is implicit in this program is the home care program. This is the only province-wide home care program in this country, and it is available to our seniors in Ontario. It is a program that needs to be expanded. It is working now, but is going to take a greater investment to expand it to meet the demands of the people who need it.

There are other programs as well, such as the homemakers and nurses' services program. There is inadequate financing around this existing program; more money must be pumped into it



to help people who have health problems stay in their homes longer. The Meals on Wheels program can and should become an important part of our efforts to accommodate senior citizens who wish to remain in their own homes. Another program is the handyman program.

Has anyone heard of the SAINTS? That is the Student Assistance In North Toronto for Seniors group; some 200 students are helping to care for more than 825 senior citizens. Another organization, called Care-Ring, has 11 offices situated in and around Metro Toronto. There is Respite Care, which provides a much-needed service for people who are caring for seniors in a family situation. When the family wants to get out of the home, some outside source can come in for a limited period, such as an evening, a weekend or a family vacation, to help the family continue to look after their senior.

We need more elderly persons centres. The member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) has been making the point for years that there is a need for centres for seniors to get together. A number of these centres are developing across the province, but we need more of them. We need more home nursing programs offered by groups such as the Victorian Order of Nurses and public health nurses. They play an important role in assisting families to maintain their elderly in family settings.

The need is today as we build for tomorrow. The need is legitimate as we look at the increasing number of seniors who need to have that support from a government that is able to give it. It is able to give it when it has a sense of priority to say seniors are important. That is the foundation we are working from. We have services now; let us not take them for granted, but let us build upon them and take them further.

I do not think we will be able to afford to go as far as the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere has suggested in his bill, but at least we can move in that direction. One has to be responsible, but let us work towards it. It is a lot better than the political garbage we heard from the Liberal Party this morning. I was shocked and ashamed that its members would start to claim credit for certain things that they did not even understand one year ago. We are at a very important point in our society. I am pleased we are now talking about this in such a serious way, and I thank the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

**10:40 a.m.**

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I want to join with other members of the Legislature in congratulating my colleague the member for Scarborough-

Ellesmere for bringing forward this important piece of legislation.

Before I get into the comments I want to make on the legislation, I would like to make reference to the previous speaker, who is from the Conservative Party. I have to say that anyone who begins a discussion on this important bill by saying we have a system of care for the elderly in Ontario that we should be proud of right now demonstrates very clearly why his party was turfed out of office. The fact is that we have a system of care for the elderly in Ontario that we should be ashamed of. Not enough progress has been made in community-based services. There has not been any progress.

A former Minister of Health, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), promised for something like six years that legislation was going to be brought in to implement an integrated home support service system. That legislation still has not been introduced. It was never introduced by the Conservative Party.

The member who just spoke on a bill that emphasizes independence for senior citizens tells us we need more chronic care beds, more institutions in Ontario. The lack of understanding of the types of services we need in the health care system for senior citizens demonstrated by the party to my right is so clear. That is why we are in the kind of shape we are in now, and that is why it is so important that we deal with this piece of legislation today.

Ontario's health care system has developed over the years to the point where we in western civilization depend on institutions more than in any other industrialized country. We spend \$250 million a year on the private nursing home sector in this province, and there is no system of financial accountability. We have no idea whatsoever how that money is spent.

A few months ago I introduced and had debated here a private member's bill that simply called for financial accountability. Nursing homes were going to have to tell the members of the Legislature and the public where they were spending their money: how much was being spent on staff and how much was being spent on food and on recreation programs.

The only party that went on record as opposing something that I consider to be fiscally responsible was the party to my right, because it wants to protect the private-profit nursing homes in this province. That has been its position for many years. It might have something to do with the fact that in the last financial returns I saw for donations to political parties, the Ontario nursing



homes in this province donated nearly \$100,000 to the Conservative Party of Ontario. We can see why they defend the institutional system: It is one of their major sources of financial assistance.

Ontario's current health care system is inhumane to senior citizens. It forces the frail and the sick, who happen to be older, to lose their independence and their dignity. Further, the system is very costly and very inefficient. When families are confronted with a mother or father needing care, they often have only one alternative. The alternative they are presented with is nursing homes or chronic care beds. This forced loss of independence is inhumane and unacceptable to the New Democratic Party.

I had great-grandparents who lived in the town of Stratford. They were married for 75 years. When they were in their 90s, my great-grandmother had to go into a nursing home. Because of the condition of my great-grandfather, for the last four years that he lived he was unable even to see his wife, after having been married to her for 75 years.

Because there was no transportation and because of the lack of community-based services, they were separated and, after having lived together for 75 years, they were not even able to see one another for the last four years of their lives. That this could happen in Ontario in the 1980s is something this province should be absolutely ashamed of.

The attitude towards aged people in this province is that with age comes loss of independence and that is just something we have to accept. We in this party say it is something we do not have to accept and it is something we are not going to tolerate any longer. The bill presented by my colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere sets out a framework of principles that, if implemented, would be very efficient, cost-effective and very humane.

I point to section 4 of the bill, which says what the functions of these community health and social service centres would be:

"(a) to provide support services;

"(b) to co-ordinate the community programs available in the municipality in order to eliminate gaps and duplication in the provision of community programs and support services;

"(c) to assist seniors in gaining access to community programs and support services."

That is an absolutely essential aspect that is missing in the system right now. In the system right now, if one is younger and disabled, there is the adult protective service worker program. The job of these workers is to plug in every possible

community support service to avoid institutionalization. We have no such program in Ontario for seniors.

One of the real difficulties is that the few programs that do exist are not well publicized and are not available or accessible to seniors in this province. If people do not know about them or if people are not there to advocate on their behalf to get them plugged into these services, then those programs might as well not be there. This is a key provision of this legislation:

"(d) to serve as a base from which home help programs are carried out;

"(e) to provide office space and administrative support to nonprofit organizations that provide community programs;

"(f) to advocate the interests of seniors as a group within the community;

"(g) to develop programs to facilitate the deinstitutionalization of seniors; and

"(h) to carry out such programs as may be prescribed by or under this or any other act."

One can see from this legislation that community-based social and health centres will be the focal point of services for senior citizens for co-ordination, planning and implementation. The one area of the province where they have already tried a bit of this is the region of Niagara. The regional municipality has a department of senior citizens under the leadership of Mr. Applegee. In that community there is co-ordination. They have even gone to the extent, because they have put community-based services in place, of having been able to close one of their homes for the aged. They got to the point where they actually were able to close a home for the aged because of the de-emphasis of institutionalized services.

In some communities, or in some people's minds, the closing of a home for the aged would be seen as a major step backward. Obviously, those of us who are supporting this legislation and those of us who believe in community-based services would see the closing of an institution or its conversion to a community-based facility for community services as a major step forward.

When I met with Mr. Applegee, I found it remarkable that they actually have a program such that if you go into a home for the aged and if your condition improves, they will guarantee you your bed at that home for the aged but they will help you try the community again. If it does not work in the community, you are guaranteed a bed back in the home for the aged; so there is none of that insecurity. They actually discharge people from homes for the aged in the Niagara region,



which is something that does not happen on a wide basis across this province.

The regional municipality's department of senior citizens has day care programs; it also has a day hospital program, senior citizens' drop-in centres, social programs and group homes. They were looking at a night care program specifically aimed at Alzheimer's victims because, as anyone who knows about that disease understands, the difficulty is at night. During the day, the individual goes home and spends time with his family; at night he comes into the residence to receive the ample care. There is a mix in that circumstance, but the community is still used to its ultimate in providing the kind of humane services that are necessary.

Ten minutes goes by very quickly, but I want to say that the suggestions my colleague makes in this piece of legislation are not particularly revolutionary; in most other civilized countries in the world they have been implemented for many years. Community-based services are what is emphasized. We know from our experience in dealing with the nursing homes of this province that to try to regulate patient care and to try to regulate dignity into the system is impossible as long as we continue to rely on private-profit institutions.

The economic, efficient and humane way to go has to be community-based services. I hope we as members of the Legislature will make a clear statement of endorsement for this principle today and pass this legislation, and I hope the government will seize this opportunity and implement these kinds of principles.

**10:50 a.m.**

**Mr. Henderson:** I am very pleased to have an opportunity to comment on Bill 3, introduced by my friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere, entitled An Act for the Provision and Integration of Community Based Services for Seniors.

I have long believed that services for seniors must be as community-based as is feasible, given the requirements we have for technical and specialized competence. I believe that services for seniors especially need to be in the home and the neighbourhood of the senior. That is where friends and family are most likely to be familiar, and familiarity is very important for seniors. Also important are familiar neighbourhoods, shops and recreational facilities, churches, physicians and, perhaps of at least a little importance, political representatives. I shall therefore be speaking generally in support of this bill.

I want to say that there is no truth at all to the rumour that I am supporting this bill put forward by the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere in return for his agreement to support my amendments to Bill 94. I seem to recall having put such a proposal to him only a few weeks ago, and I would be hard pressed to cite his reply in language that would be considered parliamentary.

Of course, as a member of another party, I must find some aspects of this bill to be a little critical about. To that end, I am happy the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere was kind enough to send me a copy of his news release on Bill 3, proudly proclaiming its identification with the New Democrats on its letterhead.

In perusing the news release, I noticed the member made the statement, "We want to bring community services under a single roof so that seniors can have a complete range of services in one place and with one phone call—perhaps 1-800-SENIORS." I must say to my friend that phone number does not sound very imaginative to me.

To give credit where it is due, I commend the member for a flash of modesty not often encountered among those of his party in restraining himself from proposing that the phone number be 1-800-WARNER. On reflection, however, the reason for that apparent modesty becomes quickly obvious, because the name "Warner" contains but six letters and a phone number requires seven.

My imagination took me to an alternative possibility, that the phone number could be 1-800-SWEENEY, noting the outstanding contributions of the minister with whom I work in this whole area of health for seniors. However, I suspect the minister might feel that to be a little self-aggrandizing, and I shall restrain the impulse to introduce such an amendment. It would be foreign to our naturally modest nature as Liberals to elevate ourselves in that fashion.

In a similar vein, I considered 1-800-VANHORNE, a proposal that suffers from the same defects as the previous one and carries the additional difficulty that there are too many letters in the name. I confess it crossed my mind to suggest 1-800-HUMBER, but there are too few letters in that.

After casting my mind about in this fashion for several minutes, I hit upon an obvious solution. Seniors who are seeking to locate the very fine array of community services that is under a single roof and with one phone call, seniors who are looking for openness and responsiveness in their



care providers, should call 1-800-LIBERAL. The right ambience and the right number of letters are there in the same word.

I know the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere put this bill forward because it dovetails so nicely with the nature and spirit of the activities of the present government in the provision of services to seniors. Several months ago—is my time up, Mr. Speaker?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin):** No.

**Mr. Henderson:** Several months ago, my colleague the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mr. Van Horne) announced on behalf of our government an \$11-million allocation of new funds for community support services to expand such services as Meals on Wheels, home help, elderly persons centres, assisted transportation and services in northern Ontario.

Planned for later this year are further services targeted for francophone seniors, native seniors and underserved communities; day care for Alzheimer's victims; relief and support services to families caring for frail, elderly persons; and counselling, training and education services for family care givers.

Concurrently, the Minister of Community and Social Services announced the beginning of a new integrated homemakers program. Six pilot projects will be operational by the end of June at a total cost of \$8 million. This program provides community support for frail seniors and physically handicapped adults to assist them to remain in their own homes. These services will be provided on the basis of need, with no medical or financial test involved.

An especially important development to help seniors remain in the community has been the creation of the Ministry of Housing's nonprofit housing program under the supervision of my colleague the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling). Under this program, nonprofit subsidized seniors' housing units will be built. Nearly 1,700 units are to be started this year alone, almost 600 of them in Metropolitan Toronto.

My colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) announced in his budget a further \$13.5 million for the enrichment of services for senior citizens.

I am happy to support this bill, because it carries on so much in the direction we have taken as a government. I am pleased to see that the bill hopes to encourage the independence of seniors, because society benefits as well as the seniors when we maximize the contributions they can bring to the quality of life in our communities.

Some of the most momentous contributions of human civilization have been made by senior citizens. I am thinking of the contributions of such people as Albert Schweitzer, Albert Einstein, Pablo Picasso, A. Y. Jackson and, in my own field, Wilder Penfield, Sigmund Freud and, more recently, Erich Fromm, whom I heard speak a few years ago. In entertainment, do not forget Jimmy Durante, Maurice Chevalier, Henry Fonda, Jimmy Stewart, Milton Berle, Bob Hope and a host of others.

**Mr. Haggerty:** George Burns.

**Mr. Henderson:** George Burns indeed. In the realm of politics are Konrad Adenauer and, dare I say, Ronald Reagan, of whom the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere is doubtless a great admirer.

It is not only an act of altruism when we care about services for seniors, because seniors have made and continue to make some of society's most outstanding contributions.

I am pleased to see the detailing of support services for seniors in this bill. Counselling programs, social, recreational and exercise programs, medical programs, educational programs, home help services, transportation services and programs of social and rehabilitative care are all mentioned and are all relevant.

There are costs to be considered, and this kind of program would be phased in with due attention to considerations of cost and with every regard to what has been popularized over the past year or so as the framework of fiscal responsibility.

I am therefore happy to speak in support of this bill and to indicate that I am very much in favour of doing more to help senior citizens, for their sake and so that we in society can continue to receive the great benefits they provide to us.

**Mr. Dean:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I understood we were to have an opportunity for a second speaker. What is the problem?

**The Acting Speaker:** Time is running out.

**Mr. Dean:** How can that be?

**The Acting Speaker:** We have until 11:02 a.m. for the debate. The last one to speak will be the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

**11 a.m.**

**Mr. Warner:** In the past couple of weeks I have received the support of a variety of municipalities, including the townships of Albeton, Bessborough, Brooke, Carnavon, Emily, Front of Escott, Front of Yonge, Georgina, Hilton, Manvers, Nairn and New Liskeard, the villages of Neustadt and Bobcaygeon and the towns of Hanover, Richmond Hill and Walker-



ton. I have received their support within the past couple of weeks, and many more probably will be coming from the more than 800 municipalities.

I have also received several hundred letters of support. I would like to read a couple of excerpts.

One person writes: "Like many others, I have tried to find community support services to help my grandmother and my aunt remain in their homes as long as they wanted. It is difficult, frustrating and time-consuming, and anything you achieve by way of this legislative pressure will be much appreciated by all ages."

Here is another quote: "The Victorian Order of Nurses have been trying to get a day care centre for seniors in the area but are very frustrated by the city council, who are more interested in supplying a second ice hockey arena for the youth of the city."

This is another quote: "This is a concern that has faced us for many years and does not seem to be diminishing. Our best wishes for your work in this area."

Here is another quote from a senior: "A copy of this correspondence will be forwarded to our MPP, Mr. Bob McKessock, seeking his support also. A program such as this is long overdue. Good luck."

There are many more comments, and the hundreds I have received so far have all been extremely supportive.

I want to close with a quote from the task force report, entitled *Ageing with Dignity*, which was published by my party:

"Thousands of Ontario seniors who are in institutions want to and could live independently. Loneliness, despair and related health problems are needlessly widespread. Families who want to help preserve their parents' independence often give up because they cannot find their way through the Ontario government's bureaucratic maze to find the aid they need."

Finally, I appreciate the attendance this morning of so many seniors and health care workers. I am sure that at 12 noon they will take careful note of those members who are so mean as not to support my bill.

#### WETLANDS POLICY

Mr. Knight moved resolution 35: That in the opinion of this House, recognizing that Ontario's wetlands are necessary to protect our vital and delicate ecosystem, are important for flood control programs and are a potentially important component of waste treatment systems, the government of Ontario should introduce a

comprehensive wetlands strategy that will protect existing wetlands and promote the creation of new wetlands where environmentally advisable, recognizing that incentives for the agricultural community are necessary.

**Mr. Knight:** I am pleased to have this opportunity to present my resolution to the House. I probably will not use all of my allotted time in presenting the resolution, and I would like to reserve the unused time for my cleanup remarks.

The subject of my resolution and speech today is Ontario wetlands. For those members who are not familiar with this term, wetlands are lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case, the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic or water-tolerant plants.

Wetlands take many forms and have a variety of names. In Alberta, for instance, they have the unlikely name of pothole complexes. In Ontario, however, we group our wetlands into four categories: swamps, marshes, bogs and fens. I am sure all members have seen many wetlands in their time. They may have seen swamps in the middle of a forest, marshes alongside Highway 401 or even what looked like giant puddles in farmers' fields. However, the members may not be aware of how extremely important each and every wetland is to Ontario and North America.

There are four main ways by which wetlands directly benefit this province. The first is economic. Fish, wood and wild rice are some of the resource products of wetlands, which add more than \$300 million to our economy each year. More significant still is the \$800 million put into our economy through the tourism and recreation opportunities wetlands provide. Even if members are not active in fishing, hunting or birdwatching, no doubt they will be aware of Ontario's fine reputation in these areas. As well, wetlands increase the opportunities for camping, cottaging and tourism. All in all, wetlands create more than 53 million user-days a year in Ontario.

The second way in which Ontario benefits from wetlands is ecological. They play an essential role in maintaining wildlife populations, often offering the only environment for certain unique or endangered plants, animals and internationally important migratory birds. To give members an idea of their significance in this regard, wetlands provide 70 per cent of the nesting habitat for all Canadian waterfowl and



are the main spawning grounds for many varieties of fish and fish food.

The third benefit is hydrological. By taking up pollutants from runoff before they enter other water systems, wetlands perform an important pollution abatement function. They also store excess runoff; this moderates the impacts of drought and flooding while regularly replenishing aquifers and the ground-water supplies needed to sustain natural vegetation, crops and wildlife.

The final benefit we in Ontario derive from wetlands is aesthetic, since they make the landscapes so much more interesting and pleasant to look at. They provide a variety of recreational opportunities and make ideal outdoor laboratories for educational and scientific research.

As I mentioned previously, some people are not aware of the important economic, ecological and aesthetic advantages of wetlands. Our ancestors certainly were not. To them, wetlands were mosquito-infested, impenetrable wastelands that posed formidable barriers to settlement. This view resulted in the huge quantities of valuable wetlands disappearing through shoreline disturbance, drainage, filling and improvement, and land clearing, all primarily for agricultural use.

On the eastern shores of Lake St. Clair, for example, where many of Ontario's best wetlands are located, there has been a 30 per cent decrease in wetlands since 1965. Of that land, 90 per cent went to agriculture and the other 10 per cent went to marine and cottage uses. Across southern Ontario, only 20 per cent of the original two million hectares of wetlands remain, and even these continue to diminish at a rate of one to two per cent annually.

One of the most frustrating things about this conversion is that wetlands which are changed to agricultural land are especially vulnerable to both wind erosion and oxidization or burning. The land oxidizes at a rate of one inch a year, which means a four-foot depth of organic soil will disappear in 50 years. On the other hand, if properly managed, wetlands can continue indefinitely to provide the benefits I have listed.

I have now outlined the considerable advantages of wetlands as well as what historically caused them to disappear so dramatically. I would now like to set out the reasons they continue to diminish despite their obviously considerable value and what we can do to reverse this trend.

In my view, the major reason we continue to lose our wetlands is that we lack a comprehensive wetlands strategy. There has never been, nor is there now, a concerted and co-ordinated approach for protecting all Ontario wetlands, backed by a strong guiding policy and the necessary financial resources. I should like to state, however, that Ontario governments have demonstrated a commitment to identify and protect our remaining natural features, including wetlands.

I would like to relate some of the government initiatives in the past few years. In 1981, an interministerial committee of resource ministries presented a discussion paper called *Towards a Wetlands Policy for Ontario*. More than 520 letters and briefs were received in response to the discussion paper, but not until April 1984, three years after the discussion paper, was *Guidelines for Wetlands Management in Ontario* released.

These guidelines were designed to be incorporated by municipalities into the municipal planning process. The municipalities were asked to comment on the guidelines, and the responses showed a clear awareness of the value of wetlands as well as some of their concerns about the guidelines.

Some of the concerns expressed were: the guidelines lacked a clear indication of the respective roles of government; municipalities had no legislative base with which to restrict the land owner from draining or filling a wetland; there needed to be a clarification regarding the application of the guidelines in northern Ontario. Most important, however, the municipalities said the guidelines were flawed in not developing a land owner compensation program.

Unfortunately, rather than providing the strong provincially co-ordinated approach that was needed, the guidelines placed the onus for implementing management practices for wetlands, other than provincially significant ones, on local municipalities, many of which are limited both financially and legislatively. The guidelines were only that: guidelines. What was and still is needed is a clear statement of government policy.

**11:10 a.m.**

As a result of the municipalities' input, the Ministry of Natural Resources started a comprehensive wetlands evaluation, using the procedures and classifications set forth in a document entitled *An Evaluation System For Wetlands of Ontario, South of the Precambrian Shield*. This system divided wetlands into seven different classifications. Classes 1 and 2, generally the



larger ones, will be provincially significant, and the balance will be regionally or locally significant.

Most recently, in 1985 an interministerial committee was set up to identify and develop corporate wetland strategies. It included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The Ministry of Revenue and the Ministry of the Environment were to be consulted as required. The time frame for this mandate was expected to be another one to one and a half years. A policy statement suitable for public review was expected at that time.

It is at this strategic time of the reshaping of wetlands policy that I feel we, the legislators of this province, can voice our concern about the lack of a strategy to adequately protect and develop our vital wetlands. The provincial government must take responsibility for all wetlands in Ontario, since every one, and not just those in classes 1 and 2, is provincially significant. We are being naïve and are shirking our responsibilities if we continue to ask the municipalities to do tasks for which they are not equipped financially or legislatively. I also feel the time frame for the policy statements is too generous, and I would much prefer to see such a statement by fall 1986.

Some things are being done to preserve wetlands, of course. The evaluation process currently being undertaken is important. We have evaluated 1,100 wetlands for a total of 225,000 hectares. In 1983, the Ontario government signed a general five-year agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada, a private organization that has been doing remarkable conservation work in Ontario since 1974. By 1987, mostly on crown land, Ducks Unlimited will have spent \$15 million and the Ontario government \$1 million to maintain, restore and create waterfowl habitat in 16,000 hectares of land, divided equally between northern and southern Ontario. Progress is reported each year and is reported to be satisfactory. Their work may be one of the main reasons Ontario did not lower its bag limit this year while the prairie provinces and the United States did.

I recognize there are conflicts between conservationists and the agricultural community with respect to wetlands. However, I do not feel these conflicts are as wide as they might seem to be on the surface, nor do I see them as insurmountable. I believe a comprehensive wetlands strategy enshrined in the Planning Act, one that addresses

the concerns of the agricultural community while protecting our wetlands, is achievable.

If we can somehow assure the farm community it will not be unreasonably prevented from draining adjacent lands into wetlands and find some way to compensate adjacent land owners for wildlife damage and introduce a distinction between productive farm land and wetlands in the property tax system, we will have gone a long way to creating a co-operative climate for wetlands conservation between farmers, conservationists and the government.

However, I believe such a climate will require an overhaul of the Drainage Act. The Drainage Act is inherently indifferent to ecological considerations. Because proper drainage is essential to agriculture, no one should be opposed to drainage. The present drainage programs lack sufficient safeguards against long-term ecological damage that may outweigh hoped-for benefits.

It is my suggestion that a class environmental assessment be developed; this definitely should be done for drainage projects that impact on provincial or regional significant wetlands, and consideration should be given to other wetlands. The costs of these assessments, however, should be funded.

Bluntly speaking, a land owner can receive an incentive to drain a wetland for agricultural use and a further 60 per cent property tax rebate once it is farmed. However, there are no corresponding incentives to maintain a significant natural wetland in the public interest.

It has been said that if wetlands are worth saving, they are worth paying for. I believe they are worth saving, and I suggest we should seriously consider (1) a tax rebate program to encourage private stewardship of wetlands by those who will maintain and preserve them, (2) funding joint agreements with groups such as Ducks Unlimited to acquire and maintain wetlands, (3) creating a conservation class for certain lands, including wetlands, within the property tax structure to avoid the present highest-potential-use classification system and (4) investigating a method of recognizing voluntary easements under the Income Tax Act.

These suggestions are clearly of importance not only to the preservation of Ontario's wetlands but also for environmentally significant areas and natural heritage sites such as river valleys, lakes and significant land forms such as the Niagara Escarpment. I suggest also that the Ministry of Natural Resources should take a lead role in co-ordinating wetland conservation, establish a



formal consultation process with all interested parties and assign specific staff the responsibility of policy development and implementation.

The government should finalize revised guidelines by fall 1986 and issue a wetlands policy statement with the eventual intent that it be incorporated into the Planning Act as a matter of provincial interest.

As well, it is important that we increase public awareness of wetlands preservation. The Ministry of Education could play a significant role in this respect, and the Ministry of Natural Resources could target educational programs for local municipalities, planning committees, land owners and developers.

At this time, I would like to give my thanks to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists for the long and meritorious work it has been performing over the years to try to ensure that there is a stronger government interest in wetlands preservation.

I hope members will join me in supporting this resolution, which will urge the government to introduce a much-needed, comprehensive wetlands strategy and thus stop the senseless and steady disappearance of Ontario wetlands, but in a meaningful way. I am looking forward to hearing comments on their proposals, and I thank all members for their consideration of this resolution.

I want to reserve the time I have left for my closing remarks.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I am pleased to have the opportunity to join in the debate on wetlands policy and on the motion put forward by the member for Halton-Burlington.

I would like to comment on some of the last words he said, "the senseless disappearance of wetlands." I am not at all sure those are the proper words to use. I suppose as individuals who are not closely involved in this issue, we can use the word "senseless," but I am sure the people who actually own the property or are very closely involved in each individual piece of land as it has been used in the past do not view it as senseless at all.

However, I do not want to minimize the concern. It is a major concern. It is a concern of provincial interest. The actions of past governments and of this one and the actions of various conservationist groups, naturalist groups and so on clearly indicate the broad-scale nature of this issue.

I will not go on at great length, because the member for Halton-Burlington has already talked about the importance of the wildlife habitat, the plant habitat and the very important water

storage aspect of wetlands, which act as a sort of sponge in our environment. They are being used and will be used more in the future, I suspect, as environmental filters. We see that going on in some municipal waste disposal systems, or at least on trial in that area. Generally, indications are that they are working very well.

**11:20 a.m.**

While nobody doubts the importance of wetlands, the issue very often is pictured as owners versus environmental needs or sometimes as owners versus environmentalists. More often, one sees it written in the media as farmers versus environmentalists. I suppose, to a degree, that sort of focuses the issue, but it is a much broader issue than that.

In defence of the farm community, it is very strongly my opinion that the farmers were the original environmentalists. They own property. They have a piece property, and they want to maintain its value for their families for generations. They want to do nothing to that property that will affect their ability to feed and clothe their families on those farms. They will go to any extent to preserve that property, and they will not knowingly damage it to any significant degree. It must be a renewable resource, and farmers will do anything to keep it that way.

Let us talk about farmers in particular but land owners in general. They own the land, and when we restrict it to farmers, many times it is cheaper to drain a piece of property than it is to buy the same amount of land somewhere else. It is usually cheaper to drain some of their own property than to sell that farm and move to another farm that has somewhat better drainage or a bigger acreage of workable land.

Economically, in almost every case, it is cheaper for the individual farmer to look at drainage as the first choice. When we look at how property owners, and farmers in particular, look at their land, we always have to keep that in mind.

On the environmental side, we look at it as a much broader issue than just the environmentalists and the conservationists. The farming community is very much aware of the importance of wetlands to the Ontario economy. The government is aware of it, much of the population in general is aware of it, and the tourism industry and all sorts of aspects of our natural resource industries are very much aware of its significance in our economy.

Many times the property owners do not benefit directly from that impact. Quite often, wetland property is almost a liability for a property



owner; he is paying taxes on it and quite often gets little or no return for owning that property.

We see the same sort of thing when we are talking about flood plains. Many times a person buys a piece of property, thinking he is going to build a home on it. It is put into flood plain land and, all of a sudden, he cannot do anything with it. He is left holding a piece of property that he cannot use for his original intention.

That property may still be very valuable to the province, and if we are going to deem these properties in flood plains or in wetlands, then somehow or other, if it is important to the province, there must be some compensation arrangement for designating these properties of significant environmental worth. If it is worth while to do so for the society of this province, then it is worth while to have society pay something to the property owners, some of whom may be significantly affected by such decisions.

How do we go about it? First, it is absolutely vital that the decisions be made on solid, scientific evidence of the classification. I strongly support, as does the farming community and almost everybody else, I believe, the sort of effort that is going into trying to classify and catalogue our wetlands. I trust they will go ahead with policy formulation. I hope it is done in a very sincere way.

What we do not need is the situation we have seen recently involving Highway 89. I see the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) sitting in the Legislature now. I will share with him that the local councils met with the minister and none of them, not even the Liberals on the council, came away from that meeting very impressed with the minister responsible for highways of Ontario.

Studies have been going on since 1980 relating to the Keswick Marsh; they are costing the province hundreds of thousands of dollars. The highway construction was cancelled. Was that cancellation as a result of solid environmental evidence, or was it done for political opportunism? That is very much open to question. Everybody in that area knows very well that the health of Lake Simcoe is absolutely paramount in making that decision. Lake Simcoe is the single most important economic factor in that area. The lake must survive, and everybody knows it. The highway must come a very significant second.

In the environmental review of that highway, I think I have my numbers right in saying that 13 of 14 agencies approved the building of that road. They said there would be environmental damage,

but they felt it would not be of major significance. However, we have seen the road cancelled very quickly. Let us say the local people are not impressed with the way it was handled.

First, let us have the decisions made on good, scientific information and not political expediency. Second, regarding compensation, I believe the people in this area should have tax-free land. Wetlands should be tax-free. If society or the province needs this land—and in many cases, it obviously does because of its absolutely vital environmental and economic importance to us—then the province must pay; not the property owner, not the local municipality, but the area that is going to benefit the most, which is the province. It is a provincial interest, and therefore the province should make the major contribution.

**Mr. Laughren:** I shall restrain myself in my response to the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson). The Minister of Transportation and Communications does not want me to restrain myself. I would like to commend the minister for his decision on the Keswick Marsh. That we do not have an appropriate wetlands policy now is because of the foot-dragging of the Conservative government that was turfed out about a year ago. There is no excuse for that decision to have been left for the present government to make. The former Minister of Agriculture and Food knows full well that the alternative routes, which did not go through that marsh, were never explored appropriately. It was most appropriate that highway was cancelled.

The member for Durham-York wants to talk out of both sides of his mouth and wants to have it both ways on an issue like wetlands. He cannot have it both ways when he is talking about wetlands. One cannot build roads through them, one cannot have development over them and they cannot be drained for agricultural purposes while at the same time preserving them as legitimate wetlands. The member knows that.

**11:30 a.m.**

**Mr. Stevenson:** You should ask John Rogers what he thinks. He is a good member of the New Democratic Party.

**Mr. Laughren:** I am telling the member the position of our party.

I commend the member for Halton-Burlington on bringing in this resolution. I think it is an appropriate one. I hope he will keep up the pressure on the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), because the minister is not yet known as a crusading conservationist. The member for Halton-Burlington will need to keep the heat on him. Any man who would turn a



wilderness park into a beehive of commercial activity has a long way to go before he can be known as a genuine environmentalist. I encourage the member for Halton-Burlington to keep up the good work on the wetlands issue.

It is now 1986. It has been about seven years since the process started with the Ministry of Natural Resources. We still do not have a wetlands policy incorporated into the province's Planning Act. As far as I know, we are still losing one per cent to two per cent of our wetlands every year and time is of the essence. I gather the present interministerial committee is still ruminating on the matter and will circulate its position when it is completed. I urge the government to move with dispatch in getting that study by the interministerial committee completed and circulated among interested groups.

Most of us have learned about wetlands, not from the Ministry of Natural Resources but from people with groups such as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Ducks Unlimited. I still keep the 1979 edition of the Ontario naturalists' *Why Wetlands?* on my desk as a constant reminder. It is the best summary I have seen as a wetlands primer. In fact, there is a section in it called "The Wetlands Primer." It is too bad it was not the Ministry of Natural Resources that put together that presentation; it was the interest groups that were required to do it.

A couple of years ago, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters put together a brief but no-nonsense letter to all members dealing with the wetlands issue. By doing it that way, it laid to rest some of the attitudes a lot of people have towards anglers and hunters. It said the following about wetlands:

"I am sure we do not need to remind you that wetlands: (1) offer water control by absorbing huge amounts of water like a giant sponge and slowly releasing it over a period of time; (2) slow down and moderate flood waters; (3) augment low summer flows and replenish ground waters; (4) act as an effective pollution fighter by filtering and cleansing the water at no extra charge; (5) are an essential part of our natural heritage by allowing hunters, anglers and naturalists to catch a glimpse of nature at its best; (6) are nature's nurseries for most fish and wildlife species at some point in their lives; and (7) are not wastelands."

I feel very good about the role the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has played in supporting the whole concept of protecting our wetlands.

If wetlands are such a great thing, what is the problem? It can be summarized in a few ways. First, wetlands can be drained and used for agricultural purposes. Second, there is the question of the Keswick Marsh that is being used for road building. Third, of course, is residential and commercial development. What are needed, and all the speakers have touched on it, are tax incentives. If there is an incentive to drain, why is there no incentive to retain? There could be a rallying cry for people across the province, "Don't drain them, retain them," so that we could preserve these valuable wetlands.

Government has a role to play. It will not happen without government leadership. In a weird kind of way, to have no policy is to have a policy; namely, to allow wetlands to be drained.

I would like to see a number of things. The first is incentives to retain wetlands. The second is to have environmental assessment on the drainage of wetlands. I would break it in two. For class 1 and 2 wetlands, the most significant wetlands, there should be individual environmental assessments. For classes 3 to 7, there should be a class environmental assessment. Third, I believe there should be a major educational program by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Environment and possibly even the Ministry of Municipal Affairs because of the municipal role. That is something this government should be working on.

Fourth, we need to address the problem of wetlands in northern Ontario, because the model used to evaluate wetlands was a southern Ontario model. The whole question of the development of the peat lands in northern Ontario will not be addressed under the present evaluative model. There needs to be a separate look at the wetlands in northern Ontario. Currently, there are no guidelines at all.

I do not believe the problem is insurmountable. As the member for Durham-York said, farmers are not really the villains. During the last couple of months, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists sat down to try to work out a common policy. Perhaps they have already done it. Farmers should not be painted as the villains of the piece.

One farmer said, "People construed us as being anti-wetlands, but all we were anti was a policy that would save wetlands for the public good and make us bear the cost." I agree with the farmers who say that if wetlands are so valuable for the public at large, then the public at large should help to pay the cost of preserving them.



Everyone seems to be on side in protecting wetlands, but at this point, wetlands do not enjoy the status of, for example, our parks. They are still second-class citizens in conservation in the minds of most people when they think about conservation. I believe the Minister of Natural Resources could win a certain level or status of legitimacy that currently he does not enjoy among conservationists if we had that interministerial committee move more quickly to distribute that report for discussion, to bring in a policy and incorporate it into the Planning Act and to do so without delay.

Finally, I remind members that in 1987 there is going to be an international conference on wetlands in Canada. I believe it will be in Saskatchewan, although I am not sure of that. I could not help but think what a delight it would be for us in Ontario to attend that international wetlands conference in Saskatchewan with a policy in our pockets that we could show to the other people there, indicating that Ontario does have a good and appropriate wetlands policy.

I urge members to support the resolution of the member for Halton-Burlington.

**Mr. McGuigan:** I apologize for not being here to listen to all the speakers, but I was at a very important meeting.

**Mr. Laughren:** The member for Kent-Elgin was not out draining the wetlands, was he?

**Mr. McGuigan:** No, we were talking about free trade. I know the member for Nickel Belt is very interested in that and I am sure he will forgive me.

**Mr. Laughren:** That is a swamp.

**Mr. McGuigan:** If it is a swamp; it is a swamp of despair.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to speak to this resolution. Preservation of this province's wetlands has been a topic of interest to me for many years. I and my family and my family before me grew up next to Rondeau Bay and the wetlands that surround Rondeau Bay and Rondeau Park. It has been very much a part of our recreational life and also part of our appreciation of the nature of this wonderful province in which we live. I recognize its value to wildlife, to water quality, to tourism and to soil conservation.

I have been critical of the lack of concern for the preservation of Ontario wetlands and I join the member for Halton-Burlington in calling for an expedited process for action by the legislators of Ontario and for a more clear and comprehensive wetlands strategy.

**11:40 a.m.**

In April 1984, I released a statement congratulating the then Minister of Natural Resources for a long-overdue statement outlining the seven classifications of wetlands referred to by the member for Halton-Burlington and other members. My statement at that time, however, criticized the then minister for not addressing the issue of incentives to individual land owners for the preservation of wetlands. As members have illustrated, there are many ways this could be encouraged by the ministries of the Ontario government.

For the purpose of illustrating to this House the type of disincentive there is at present, for the purpose of the preservation of wetlands, I have prepared an example that compares the assessment and the net tax payable on various classifications of land in one township in southwestern Ontario.

Dover township, which borders Lake St. Clair, is in the riding of the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Bossy). It is an area that has been drained for many years, at least 80 per cent of it. Using the present market value figure for class 1 and class 2 farm land in Dover township—and even today, at reduced farm land values, it is still valid for that area—\$4,000 for farm land and \$3,535 per acre for class 2 land, and using the percentage factor of 2.1 per cent applied to agricultural land under the Assessment Act, it equals an assessed value of \$84 per acre for class 1 and \$74.24 for class 2 farm land.

Wetlands are assessed as recreational and residential property and they are valued at \$1,300. I want to point out that the value is much less. However, multiplied by a percentage factor of 4.5, it equals \$58.50 an acre for the assessed value. Applying the present mill rate in Dover of 2.89 to all three classes of land results in a tax of \$25 per acre for class 1, \$22.12 an acre for class 2 and \$17.43 per acre for wetlands. It might strike members that all of these taxes are very high. However, this is very valuable land, and it does have very high costs of drainage. In most cases, the water is pumped off the land.

The wetlands, however, are not eligible for the farm tax reduction program, which allows for 60 per cent of the property taxes to be rebated the following year by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Calculating in the rebate, the real tax payable on farm land is \$10 for class 1 and \$8.85 for class 2 farm land. This, of course, has to be compared to the real tax payable on wetlands, which remains at \$17.43 per acre. We have the anomaly of the owner of the wetlands actually



paying about 70 per cent more out of his own pocket than the farmer pays on class 1 agricultural land.

I realize that \$7 is perhaps not a huge amount of money. Nevertheless, it does send the wrong message that we are discriminating in our tax policies against wetlands. It certainly gives an individual pause to consider whether he or she wishes to retain the wetlands or wishes to consider draining the wetlands for some other purpose.

Many of us think councils of rural municipalities may all be in favour of development because they want more tax base and so on. As well, in an agricultural township one might expect that the council would be in favour of developing, just as a matter of principle.

On March 29, 1984, the Dover township council passed the following resolution:

"That a letter be sent to Jim McGuigan, MPP, and Mr. R. S. Riddell, regional assessment commissioner"—I assume he is no relation to our Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), but he has the same name—"requesting that the province of Ontario change its policy on marshland assessment so that marshland is not taxed at a rate similar to farm land."

Here we have a municipal council in an agricultural area recognizing it wants to save that marshland. I know many people feel wetlands should be added to our agricultural base. The tragedy of this is that drained wetland soils oxidize or burn up at the rate of one inch of soil a year.

I will just take a minute to point out how wetlands are formed in the first place. Sages, bulrushes, trees and all sorts of vegetation grow up in that wetland environment. When the vegetation dies and sinks below the water, oxygen is held away from it. Rather than rotting, as it does on upland soil, and becoming part of the mineral soil—adding organic matter to the mineral soil—the vegetation that goes under water turns into organic soils itself, because it does not have the oxidizing effect or burning effect of oxygen. When we remove that water and add oxygen to the chemical equation, oxidation takes place. The soil literally burns up at the rate of an inch a year. When we drain wetlands and use them as agricultural soil, we are headed to the ultimate destruction at the rate of an inch a year. A four-foot depth can disappear in a matter of 50 years.

They have done that around Lake Okeechobee in Florida, where I was visiting a number of years ago. Most of our winter vegetables come from

that area of the state, Dade county. Right on the front lawn of one of the experimental farms, a concrete post was sticking about four feet out of the ground. This was about 30 years ago. As I saw it, I remarked, "What is that concrete post?" They said, "When this experimentation was established, we dug a post hole down into the ground and filled it full of cement levelled to the top of the ground." In the years that had elapsed, and I have forgotten what the date was, the soil had subsided so that the post hole was a vertical post sticking about four feet out of the ground. I am sure it is sticking out a great deal more because of the 30 years that have gone by.

As soon as we drain the soil, we are destroying it. One of the ironic things to think about relates to the levels of the waters in the lake. I see you have not got time for this, Mr. Speaker. When we drain the wetlands and send the water down, as some people propose, to the American Southwest to irrigate dry soils—I have not time to explain it—when we irrigate dry soils, we also destroy them. This has been illustrated all over the world. Wherever we go into a dry climate and irrigate the soil, we destroy the soil.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. McLean:** I am pleased to speak on this bill this morning. I support private member's notice of motion 35, which concerns existing wetlands and promoting the creation of new wetlands where environmentally advisable.

I have spent 16 years involved in conservation in Ontario and have been on the executive committee of conservation authorities in Ontario for some years. I realize the value of the wetlands and of their preservation. Of the more than 47,000 acres that we have in the Minesing Swamp, the province now owns approximately 10,000 acres in co-operation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

When we look at the price paid for that land—\$54 an acre was what the first 2,000 acres was bought for—and see the price that land is selling for today, it has increased rapidly; but we also have to take into consideration the taxes those people are paying on that land, and it is in a wetlands environment. I think it is great because of the attractions there for people who want to canoe through the Minesing Swamp and see the wildlife. Some of the species there can be found nowhere else in Ontario.

**11:50 a.m.**

I also had occasion to be at Luther Marsh, in the riding of my great friend the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson). I



observed the number of geese, the wildlife that was there and that was doing harm in the cornfields of the farms in the immediate area.

When we are creating wetland, we have to realize what happens within the area around the wetland. I know that government guidelines with regard to the wetlands were released back in 1984. At that time, the government wanted to meet its commitment and be responsible to help create and maintain wetlands where feasible.

There were a lot of concerns from the farmers in my area with regard to the study that was being done and the people who were travelling over their properties without any approval. There were some 2,000 acres that were supposed to have been classified as wetlands, and when the ministry completed its report, it identified more than 4,000 acres. So when we talk about wetlands, we also have to take into consideration flood-line mapping, how we reduce the flooding, hold it up in the spring and let it go as the season progresses.

When we look at the millions of dollars taken in on our hunting and fishing licences and the value of the fur and the wild rice industries, they exceed \$300 million on an annual basis. Approximately 80 per cent of the original wetlands in southern Ontario have been drained for a variety of reasons. The wetland area is currently being reduced at a rate of one to two per cent annually.

I can endorse a resolution such as this, but my endorsement comes with a reservation as to what happens within the farming community that surrounds the wetlands. With the wildlife that is attracted, the geese that get in the farmers' corn, the grain and alfalfa fields, there has to be consideration so that the farmers are protected. I am not interested in compensating people; I am interested in protecting people from what we as a government may create.

Flood plain mapping has been under way with the federal government in co-operation with the Ministry of Natural Resources to have a proposal for the township of Rama that would reduce the area that is being flooded at present so that those farmers can use their lands earlier in the spring and thereby not create the flooding that is taking place now. The townships have a great concern in that.

I say to the member who brought this resolution in that the municipal people, municipal councils and the leaders in the community should be made well aware of what has taken place. The elected municipal people should have some input, because they know their municipalities better than anyone else. They are the ones

who should told: "Yes, we are doing a study. How can we help you?"

**Mr. Knight:** In the time remaining, I would like to comment on the contributions of the speakers this morning, and I thank them for those.

The member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) mentioned that farmers were the original environmentalists, and I have no quarrel with that statement. I would also not quarrel with him when he indicates that farmers would not knowingly damage the land.

I am aware that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has been very heavily involved in discussions with conservationists and environmentalist groups with respect to the methods we could undertake to preserve wetlands. Having spoken to them and others participating in that process, I know their contributions have been very even-minded, in some instances going the extra mile to assist the efforts brought by the farming community to preserve the wetlands and in making suggestions about the compensation programs the government should introduce.

I thank the member for Durham-York for agreeing with my general resolution that wetlands should be preserved. I hope he is also supportive of the recommendations I have mentioned this morning.

I am aware of the long-standing interest of the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) in that matter. He indicated it has been seven years since he first took an interest and he mentioned the brochure the Federation of Ontario Naturalists published in 1979. I hope that in 1986 we are now at the point where the government of Ontario will be bringing forth a comprehensive strategy to be enshrined in the Planning Act. He mentioned I should speak to the Minister of Natural Resources, with whom I am pleased to speak and chat from time to time, and I shall do that.

I was interested in his comments on assessments. He suggested more specific assessments, such as single assessments on classes 1 and 2 and class assessments on 3 to 7. Suffice to say that I agree there should be some sort of assessment, which should be funded. It would be nice if we were able to go to the 1987 conference in Saskatchewan with a policy in our pocket. I look forward to that myself.

I thank the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan). I have to mention to the member for Nickel Belt that if I am not able to chat with the Minister of Natural Resources, I am sure the member for Kent-Elgin has a closer relationship



and probably would be able to talk with him in my stead.

I thank the other members who spoke to the resolution. This is a matter of importance to me. I hope it is important to the rest of the members of the Legislature. The process has been ongoing for some time. I am confident that with the support of all members of the House for my resolution we will be able to encourage the government to complete the process and bring forth a comprehensive wetlands strategy that can ultimately be enshrined in the Planning Act.

I hope my comments today will ensure that strategy will provide for compensation for agriculturalists and other land owners in preserving wetlands. Also, I hope we can put out the message that education is important to ensure that the preservation continues, with or without—let us hope it is with—a comprehensive strategy.

**Mr. Warner:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to your attention that I am very upset with the treatment which was provided to a group of senior citizens who this morning attempted to sit in the gallery and listen to the debate. Part-way through the debate they were asked by the officials here to leave the gallery; yet they had done nothing to warrant being removed from the gallery. I would appreciate it if you would look into the matter so that this type of thing does not happen again.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member has drawn a point of information to my attention. Because of his request, I will certainly try to find out the reason. It is quite possible these people were here on tour as a group, as many are, and were in the House for a certain length of time.

**Mr. Cousens:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to share in the concern. This is a very legitimate point of order and is worthy of—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Cousens:** Mr. Speaker, if this is not a point of order, I do not know what is in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. There is nothing out of order. However, I said I will look at it. I do not think anything further can be done.

#### SENIORS' INDEPENDENCE ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Warner has moved second reading of Bill 3, An Act for the Provision and Integration of Community Based Services for Seniors.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Speaker:** The bill, according to the standing orders, will be sent to committee of the whole House.

**Mr. Warner:** I wish to have the bill sent to the standing committee on social development.

**Mr. Speaker:** The standing orders say a private members' bill will be sent to committee of the whole House unless the majority of the House wishes it to go to a standing committee. The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere has made such a request. I would like some indication from the majority of the members of the House whether it should go to that standing committee.

Ordered for standing committee on social development.

#### WETLANDS POLICY

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Knight has moved resolution 35.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Speaker:** That completes the business of the House this morning.

The House recessed at 12:02 p.m.



## AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

### VISITOR

**Mr. Speaker:** I ask all members to join me in welcoming and recognizing in the Speaker's gallery today Senator William A. Sederburg from the 24th district, Lansing, Michigan.

### ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

**Mr. McClellan:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Before members' statements, I want to raise a subject that has been raised many times in the past in this assembly. I thought you might have made a statement with respect to the change in policy that has obviously been made with respect to demonstrations within the assembly. I want to say right off the bat that I welcome that change.

I recall two incidents from the past which illustrated the previous policy. During the debate on Bill 179, the wage control bill, delegates from the Ontario Public Service Employees Union were ordered out of the building because they were wearing OPSEU T-shirts and buttons and were thus technically demonstrating inside the assembly. Earlier, in 1979, a delegation of injured workers who were demonstrating outside the assembly in the hot sun were prohibited from entering the building to get a drink of water.

I am pleased to note that under this new policy, the demonstrators from the Ontario Medical Association were permitted to enter the building wearing their OMA uniforms and buttons and accompanied by their own photographer. They were given four reserved tables in the dining room downstairs, where they were able to make short speeches, toast and applaud their guests and quench their thirst with glasses of Henkell Trocken sparkling wine.

My point is that I trust all these amenities will be available to the injured workers the next time they come to Queen's Park.

**Mr. Gillies:** On the same point, Mr. Speaker: I am sure I speak for my colleagues when I say I always considered it a bit of an anomaly that someone coming into the galleries of this place wearing a T-shirt or a button would be considered in any way part of a demonstration. If the leniency you are showing today is a change of policy, we welcome it. We also particularly welcome the members of the medical profession who are here today to demonstrate their concern for their rights.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will respond to the two members who have spoken, even though it is not a point of order. I believe the only thing that comes under a point of order would be in regard to demonstrations in the gallery. Guidelines have been set out by previous Speakers. I looked very carefully at those, and it is stated that participants in any demonstrations held outside are not allowed into the hallways or galleries with their paraphernalia or equipment.

As far as the so-called demonstration in the dining room is concerned, I have no authority over that. I believe it is the members' dining room, and I am sure a member of the Legislature is responsible for those guests.

**Mr. McClellan:** Either there is one rule for everybody or something else. Which is it?

**Mr. Speaker:** I agree. In our discussions earlier this morning, it was agreed that on a previous occasion there was a demonstration with white coats etc. It was asked that those white coats should be removed before they could enter. There is no demonstration today. I will be glad to look at it more closely.

2:05 p.m.

### MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### DISASTER RELIEF

**Mr. J. M. Johnson:** I take this opportunity to remind the members of this Legislature that one year ago this Saturday on May 31, 1985, tornadoes struck several parts of southern Ontario.

In my riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, tornadoes carved a devastating path of destruction through the area of Arthur, Belwood, Grand Valley and Orangeville, moving into Simcoe county and Barrie. These killer tornadoes left 12 people dead, hundreds injured and thousands homeless. The costs of nature going wild for a few minutes wiped out generations of toil, effort and savings.

That evening, after inspecting this terrible devastation, I requested the assistance of the then Solicitor General, the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory). The next morning the then Premier, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), the Solicitor General and the then Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), arrived in Grand Valley after visiting Barrie and area. The Premier assured me that he shared my view that it



was a disaster area and that the province was prepared to assist in restoring the devastated communities on the base of three-to-one funding.

In conclusion, may I express my condolences to the families who lost loved ones, my hope that all the injured are fully recovered, my best wishes to the many who lost their homes and businesses and were forced to rebuild and my thanks to the many thousands of good people who provided help to the victims of this disaster.

### INJURED WORKERS DAY

**Mr. McClellan:** I am sure all members will want to join with me in recognizing that this Sunday, June 1, will be Injured Workers Day in Ontario. The day will be marked by a gathering of injured workers and their supporters at the steps of the Legislature starting at 10 a.m. At 11 o'clock, there will be a moment's silence for injured workers who have died as a result of industrial accidents or disease.

I want to take the occasion of Injured Workers Day in 1986 to remind the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye), the new government and all the members of the assembly that the legitimate and just demands of working people in this province for safety on the job and for a reform of the Workers' Compensation Board is still unfulfilled.

Injured workers are still not properly compensated for industrial accidents. The Workers' Compensation Board has not even begun to address adequately the issue of compensation for the victims of industrial disease. Injured workers do not have a legal entitlement to job retraining and job placement after being disabled.

Until these things are done, injured workers in Ontario will continue to feel a deep sense of grievance that they have been cast off and forgotten by their community, and for the rest of us this should be a source of deep shame.

### D-DAY REUNION

**Mr. Morin:** I wish to bring to the assembly's attention an important event taking place in the city of Toronto on the coming weekend. In recognition of the 42nd anniversary of the Normandy invasion, the Toronto and area branch of the Canadian Airborne Forces Association has organized its first Allied airborne D-Day reunion and memorial ceremony.

At that French beachhead all those years ago, airborne forces guaranteed their place in history by taking the crucial first step in the liberation of an enchained Europe. We owe a deep and lasting debt of gratitude to the members of the Allied

forces who answered their country's call to fight for our democratic ideals and who, when necessary, sacrificed their very lives to ensure our freedom today.

As a result of the tireless efforts of the branch president, John McGillis, who is in the gallery this afternoon accompanied by a master warrant officer of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, members of airborne units of Canada, the United States, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Britain and Israel are gathering in our provincial capital to commemorate this historic occasion. I am sure all members of the assembly join with me in wishing them an enjoyable and successful reunion and ceremony.

### DISASTER RELIEF

**Mr. McCague:** As my colleague has mentioned, this Saturday marks the first anniversary of the devastating tornadoes that struck parts of southern Ontario. I think it appropriate at this time for all members of this House to reflect for a moment on some of the positive efforts that came in response to that disaster.

The public was saddened by the deaths and property destruction that occurred at that time. Out of the disaster, however, emerged the public's generosity: as simple as offering a meal or a few nights' shelter to a neighbour, volunteering in one of the many emergency centres that had been established, sending in clothing or contributing to the nearly \$10 million raised for the Central Ontario Disaster Relief Committee.

In all this, the people of our province demonstrated the true spirit of co-operation and a high regard for one another. I am sure all members of this House share with me in thanking the members of the Central Ontario Disaster Relief Committee, especially its chairman, John Morrison; the chairman of fund-raising, Geoffrey Lind; the chairman of the claims committee, Ed Thompson; and those hundreds of people who responded in so many ways to the needs and concerns of others.

### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Foulds:** The free trade studies released by the federal and provincial governments confirm what the New Democrats have been saying for 18 months or more. The so-called benefits of free trade will be paid for with the jobs of workers. That is why the 800,000-member Ontario Federation of Labour, the United Steelworkers of America, the United Auto Workers Union of Canada, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, the association of retirees, the United



Church and many other Ontarians oppose free trade.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson) said last Tuesday there is "a great deal to be lost if any government in this country fails to represent the interests and views of its people...forcefully." The majority of Ontarians expressed their interests and their views. The Premier must not fail to represent them. On Monday in Ottawa, the Premier must insist that softwood, lumber, potatoes, hogs, cattle and the auto pact are, in his words, "kept off the bargaining block."

Surely it is now clear that the cost to Ontario of a free trade deal with the United States will be jobs and communities. He should remember Kipling, who said, "It is her own soul that Canada risks today." Ontario's economy and her soul are at risk. The Premier must report to Brian Mulroney what he suggested to the grocers on Tuesday: Include us out of your impossible dream.

#### FUTURES PROGRAM

**Mr. Cordiano:** Members of the Legislature will recall that the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Sorbara) announced a new initiative six months ago to provide training, educational upgrading and work experience for hard-to-employ youth. The program, called Futures, grew from a commitment made more than two years ago by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) when he was in opposition and reaffirmed by him as he took office last summer as Ontario's 20th premier.

The development of the Futures program and its operation were placed in the Ministry of Skills Development. It is extremely satisfying to announce today that we set out to help 56,000 young people in the past fiscal year and that our goal was met.

Our pleasure is not derived from a numbers game but in the knowledge that 56,000 hard-to-employ Ontarians between 16 and 24 years of age received counselling, on-the-job training and work experience and in some cases very basic pre-employment training. More important, for most of these young people, participation in this program led to permanent jobs and a decision to return to school.

In my riding of Downsview, Seneca College is one of the delivery organizations for Futures. A letter from one of Seneca's Futures graduates sums it up pretty well. She wrote to say thank you, because through the program she obtained a responsible position as an administrative assistant.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

**Mr. Rowe:** Saturday marks the first anniversary of the tornado that struck central Ontario. We in this House should take a moment and reflect on that most bleak and tragic day.

At approximately 5:15 p.m., the devastating tornado touched down just west of Highway 400 in Barrie. By the time it left a few minutes later, a path of death and destruction lay behind. We have all learned something from this tragic phenomenon—some bad things; some good things. One such lesson is the need for restructuring of the tornado assistance guidelines, which are antiquated and must be overhauled.

Let me take a minute to thank the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) for his assistance with many tragic personal cases I have sent him. However, I also want to remind the minister there are still personal cases outstanding, and I urge him to act expediently to help solve these cases.

2:15 p.m.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

##### COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** I wish to preface my remarks by saying that the statement I am about to make gives me perhaps more satisfaction and pleasure than any I have made thus far in the House, dealing, as it does, with community colleges and the resolution of an issue with which I was confronted when I first came to my position as Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Today I have the pleasure of making a statement to this House of major importance to the future health and vitality of Ontario's colleges of applied arts and technology. The 1986-87 operating grant to the colleges is being increased by a further \$60 million. This will bring the total operating support being provided to the colleges this year to \$588.1 million. This is in direct response to the needs of the community college system for increased financial resources to improve the quality of education.

Upon becoming Minister of Colleges and Universities, one of the first items to appear on my desk was the Instructional Assignment Review Committee report, known in government as the Skolnik report. As members will recall, college academic staff were on strike in the fall of 1984; there was disarray in the college system, and faculty work load was the critical issue. The work load issue was not resolved in the strike, and a committee chaired by Professor Michael



Skolnik was appointed in November 1984. Its job was to conduct a comprehensive review of all aspects of instructional assignments in the colleges.

The Skolnik report concluded that faculty did have a serious work load problem and that the quality of education was being adversely affected as a result. After I reviewed the report, I indicated that the work load issue must be addressed at the bargaining table and strongly urged both sides to arrive at a negotiated settlement. I am pleased to report today that a negotiated settlement has been achieved and that an agreement was signed on May 22. It is a two-year contract, by the way.

New work load provisions in the contract permit more contact between teachers and students and provide greater opportunities for faculty to keep abreast of developments in their particular fields. With today's commitment of additional funding, colleges will be in a position to hire substantial numbers of new faculty members. I am particularly pleased that these hirings will provide new teaching opportunities for women and accelerate the hiring of women faculty in the colleges.

As well, with the new work load provisions in the contract, nursing faculty will now be treated exactly the same as teachers in other post-secondary programs. Historically, nursing faculty, 96 per cent of whom are women, had been required to teach more hours than any post-secondary faculty. I am pleased to report that the new work load provisions remove this discrimination.

This government has on many occasions stated its commitment to excellence in education. Colleges are a most important component of the province's educational system. Colleges play a large role in ensuring that our labour force has the skills to enable Ontario industries to remain competitive in world markets, and they enable adult learners to adapt to changing technologies.

This government recognizes that additional funding alone is not sufficient to revitalize the province's colleges of applied arts and technology. I have initiated various studies to develop more effective governance and operational structures for the college system. I will be reporting on these studies in the coming months.

With the establishment of the college excellence fund and the \$60 million in new funds I am announcing today, I am confident we are making strides to build a stronger and more vital college system.

**Mr. McFadden:** I welcome the announcement by the Minister of Colleges and Universities in relation to the extension of further operating grants to the college system. In Ontario we have the finest system of colleges in Canada. We can be proud of it, and I very much welcome what the government has done today.

**Mr. Allen:** I compliment the Minister of Colleges and Universities for recognizing the eminent merits of the Skolnik report in its judgement that the work load situation in the colleges, over which a strike was held and on which we stood alone in the debate in this House, really merits full response.

I hope the minister continues in this tradition of responding and of overturning some of the predilections and attitudes of his colleagues in a past forum in this Legislature.

#### COURT SYSTEM

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I am pleased to announce the appointment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Thomas Zuber of the Ontario Court of Appeal to conduct an inquiry into the organization, jurisdiction and structure of the courts of Ontario.

The impetus for this inquiry comes in part from complaints, suggestions and recommendations made to me during the past 11 months concerning the operation of our court system and in part from my own conviction, based on my experience at the bar, that substantial changes are needed in the system. These changes are needed to ensure that (1) the public has ready accessibility to our courts, (2) the public receives a proper level of service from the courts and (3) all this be done in an efficient and economical manner.

The most recent systematic investigation of the operation of our courts and their structure was conducted more than 15 years ago by the Ontario Law Reform Commission, which prepared a three-volume report entitled Report on the Administration of Ontario Courts. Since that time there have been fundamental changes in our society and its laws but none whatever in the courts. The time has now come for a thorough examination of the problems inherent in our court system so we can better cope with the constantly increasing demands placed upon us.

We have given Mr. Justice Zuber the widest possible scope in his terms of reference to deal with any question that arises in the area of organization, structure, jurisdiction or the work load of any court of Ontario, from a justice of the peace to the Ontario Court of Appeal, and any matter dealing with access to the courts by the



public and the provision of service by the courts to the public.

I want to make it clear to my colleagues that this inquiry is not intended to be a mere tinkering with the existing system but rather a fundamental rethinking of all the assumptions on which our courts have operated since 1792, when they were first established upon the creation of the province of Upper Canada. I have personally asked Mr. Justice Zuber to consider redesigning the entire system from the ground up to provide us with an organization that responds to our needs today and will be adaptable to our needs 15 years from now in the year 2000.

Mr. Justice Zuber will provide me with his report by April 1, 1987. I undertake to consider his recommendations immediately and to act as swiftly as possible on them.

**Mr. O'Connor:** On behalf of our party, I welcome the inquiry announced by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) into the court system in Ontario and particularly, as the statement indicates, into the organization, jurisdiction and structure of the courts of our province.

Given the events of the past few days, how could the minister omit perhaps the most important, pressing and urgent problem in the legal delivery system today, namely, that of facilities and, in particular, courthouses?

We have heard horror stories through the news media and in this House of condemned, leaking, falling-down court buildings. There is nothing in the statement about an inquiry into this very serious problem. We will hear more about the situation today. The minister continues to ignore it.

What good is a better flow of people and paper if there is no adequate place in which to hold trials? The minister should consider expanding the inquiry, to include reference to the physical facilities of this province, and making the inquiry public so that the people of this province can observe its deliberations and have input into the final outcome of this inquiry.

We welcome the inquiry as it stands, but it must be expanded.

**Mr. Rae:** With respect to the courts, I say to the Attorney General that I can only hope Mr. Justice Zuber will be suggesting reforms that will be far-reaching and will deal with the need, in our view, to combine our senior courts into one unified system, which would make the most sense.

#### FREE TRADE

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I am tabling a study entitled Canada-US Free Trade: The Exchange Rate and

Employment Policy. The study is part of our ongoing analysis of the issues surrounding Canada-US bilateral trade negotiations. It reflects recent developments and may aid members in understanding the background to press stories linking the trade talks to Canada's exchange rate policy.

The study outlines the link between US trade policy and initiatives by the US administration related to exchange rates. It notes that pressure may be brought to bear on Canada's exchange rate policy through the new Group of Seven. The study outlines some estimates of the negative effects on the Canadian economy of a deliberate attempt to raise the exchange value of the Canadian dollar.

**Mr. Brandt:** I want to respond briefly to the comments of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) with respect to the background document he has released today.

First, I want to compliment the Treasurer on sharing this information with us.

[Applause]

**Mr. Brandt:** I am not finished yet. I believe it is important in the discussion of free trade policy that we get this type of background information. In this paper, it indicates that for every five per cent of the dollar that is reduced, we lose some 56,000 jobs. In an earlier statement made by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology about the study it undertook, there was a background document indicating some 280,000 jobs would be lost through free trade.

As I have requested of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) and of this House, I suggest we get all the background material and that we be provided with some information from time to time on what some of those gains might be so we can get a balanced picture from that side of the House, something that has been lacking so far.

**Mr. Harris:** On behalf of our party, I want to join with the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin) in welcoming John McGillis and Master Warrant Officer Clarence Jardine, who are here—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. We are not in members' statements. That was a member's statement.

**Mr. Foulds:** This week the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said with regard to free trade negotiations that all the facts must be on the table. The facts are clear. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology reported 280,000 jobs at risk in the free trade negotiations. The report of the Treasurer indicates 56,000 additional jobs at risk because of these negotiations.



The Premier admitted his government began to study the effects of free trade on agriculture and food in this province just this week, and the study will not be completed for several months. I say to the Premier and to the Treasurer, do not go quietly into that dark night, because they are going into shark-infested waters in Ottawa. They cannot preside over the dismantlement and the dismembering of Ontario's jobs and Ontario's economy.

### ONTARIO STOCK YARDS

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I am sure my statement will touch the senses of each and every member of this Legislature. I am pleased to report that the review of the Ontario Stock Yards conducted by John Kruger, special adviser to the Premier (Mr. Peterson), and Don Dunn of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, is complete.

The purpose of the review was to determine options and recommendations on the role of the Ontario Stock Yards facilities in meeting future needs for livestock marketing. The review explored various options, such as privatization, relocation or closing of the stockyards. All businesses, organizations and individuals with an interest in the stockyards were encouraged to voice their opinions.

On the basis of this extensive consultation, the government has decided to maintain the 37 acres of livestock marketing facilities and services at the 590 Keele Street location. The stockyards will continue to operate as a government agency, but a number of operational changes are planned.

For example, we will be amending the Ontario Stock Yards Act to clarify the Ontario Stock Yards board's responsibilities and provincial ownership of the stockyards' property. We will also amend the Ontario Live Stock Community Sales Act to license and regulate commission firms operating from the Ontario stock yards on a similar basis as all other livestock community sale operators in Ontario.

The Ontario Stock Yards board will be asked to develop a five-year financial business plan and to submit annual budget forecasts to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. These will include plans for necessary capital improvements and a property management plan to address property requirements and sale or lease of surplus land. A revenue recovery system, based on a combination of fixed overhead charges to each commission agent and a per head charge for livestock sold, will be developed in consultation with the commission firms.

As recommended, the Ontario government will discuss with the city of Toronto payment of property taxes in the future.

The 590 Keele Street office building will be maintained because of its importance to the tenants operating from the stockyards and the livestock industry organizations.

The status and role of the stock yards will be reviewed again in 1991.

I am very pleased with the findings and recommendations, which reflect the views of many livestock industry businesses and organizations that were consulted during the review. I would add that the city of Toronto has recommended maintaining the stockyards in its present location.

Although the percentage of the Ontario livestock sales through the stockyards has declined in recent years, the facility continues to provide an important marketing service for livestock producers and buyers. In 1984, the four commission firms at the stockyards sold more than 500,000 head of cattle, calves, sheep and lambs. This represented some 31 per cent of Ontario's calf and cattle sales and 50 per cent of the sheep and lambs. In addition, the yards handled 81,000 feeder cattle transported by rail, and 180,000 hogs were shipped through the Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board's assembly facilities at the stockyards.

Ontario Stock Yards Board chairman Ross Beattie, other board members and general manager Doug McDonnell provided valuable input to this review. I look forward to working with them on the future management and operation of the Ontario Stock Yards.

**Mr. Shymko:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. I think it is an affront to all members of this Legislature that this information was leaked to a weekly tabloid in Toronto's west end, which published a front-page article outlining all the details of this report before the elected members of this Legislature received any information.

The action of the minister in providing that information as a priority to the editor of a tabloid as being more important than the elected members of this province is a subversion, usurpation and abuse of the privileges of the members of this House.

**Mr. Rae:** Not only does the member for High Park-Swansea have a point with respect to the leak, but I think the Toronto Star does as well, because it has leaked everything else so far. It is a pity it did not get this story as well.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member rose on a point of privilege. As I have stated on previous



occasions, I cannot see this as a point of privilege or a point of order. However, it may be a point of courtesy; I do not know. I ask the honourable member to take his seat while the Speaker is on his feet. Thank you. Therefore, it is not a point of order or a point of privilege.

**Mr. Shymko:** I want to point out that once again all the members' sentiments have been touched by the leak of that information. Notwithstanding this, the statement that there had been extensive consultation is a lot of bull, if I may use a pun. It is a total sham. The unionized workers have not been consulted, nor have the ratepayers of the area or the elected municipal and provincial members, not to speak of federal members. This follows the Kelljair report, which seriously wanted to look at the option of relocation. There is no reference to a serious study.

I am seriously concerned that the minister has not referred to the fact that the city of Toronto has not been paid millions of dollars of taxes by the Ontario Stock Yards. I want to know whether that same excuse for millions of dollars not paid would be given to the average taxpayer.

According to the leaked information, some land is to be given freely to the city of Toronto. I wonder whether the mystery refers to the fact that this is a way of avoiding the payment of these taxes. There is no reference. According to the leak, that was one of the contemplated suggestions of giving land to the city of Toronto.

I believe the whole report is a sham. It is a half report and a lot of facts have been hidden by this minister.

**Mr. Rae:** It is my happy task to comment on the statements about the courts and the stockyards. After listening to the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. in the last couple of weeks, I find the difference between those two to be diminishing somewhat.

With respect to the report on the stockyards, it would perhaps have been appropriate if the minister had chosen to make his statement with respect to the future of the stockyards on a day like today, when the air is fairly close, standing at the corner of Keele Street and St. Clair Avenue, which is on the border of my constituency, and talk to the neighbourhood.

I am not in favour of moving the stockyards, but I am also deeply concerned, as I think he should be. I am glad to see his colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) here as well. I invite both of them to come down with me on the St. Clair streetcar, stand at that corner and talk with the neighbours about the smell.

It is a problem. There is a problem of pollution. It is particularly strong in the summer and it is particularly real in the summer. It affects the areas to the north, the south, the east and the west. They are working class neighbourhoods with people who have been there for 20, 30 or 40 years, and they are very concerned about the quality of the air they breathe.

The minister would have been wise to have combined his statement today with some assurances with respect to environmental changes that might do something about the fact that we have a very large facility, plus Canada Packers, in the middle of a residential area, and that does have an impact on the quality of the environment.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaître:** Late in the afternoon of Friday, May 31, 1985, several tornadoes swept through central Ontario, causing extensive damage in some 30 municipalities. The village of Grand Valley and the city of Barrie were the hardest hit. A dozen people were killed and hundreds more were injured. Many more were left homeless.

On this anniversary, I would like to tell the House that during these 12 months the vast majority of people who suffered loss of one kind or another have rebuilt their lives and are putting this tragedy behind them. Some, because of trauma and loss, will never be able to recover fully, and I know every member of this House has deep sympathy for their personal plight, especially where family members were killed.

There is no adequate recompense for the loss of life, and I will not pretend that any type of relief program can compensate for that. However, I can say Ontario has the best relief program in North America. The goal of the Ontario relief assistance program is to assure that victims of disaster can begin to rebuild their lives without starting from scratch. Through this program, we have provided adequate money, and the majority of victims are satisfied with the way the program assisted them. The goals of this program have been met.

I am proud to live in this province, in which the time, effort and energies of volunteers and the overwhelming contribution of the general public poured forth in such a time of need. Looking back, I believe the shining examples of community volunteers, including the Red Cross, the Mennonites and many other groups and individuals, inspired all those involved in relief efforts. As this is a time of reflection, we can all learn from looking at what we can do as communities



and individuals to secure as best we can our lives and property should disaster strike again.

As individuals, we must have insurance for property. It is essential. No relief program is intended to be a substitute for adequate insurance coverage, nor can it relieve an individual from responsibility to ensure adequate coverage. As communities, we can learn from those municipalities that had working and practised emergency plans in place when disaster struck.

The province is not exempt from learning from the events of last year. As I have said, the Ontario disaster relief assistance program is the most generous relief program I know of. As I told this House a few weeks ago, a major review of the program is being undertaken by Woods Gordon Management Consultants. If we can make the program better, we will.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the government has been accused of not living up to its commitment to help the victims of the disaster of May 31, 1985. Many promises were made in the few days immediately following the storm. They were made by politicians who sincerely believed total damage costs would exceed \$150 million. As it turned out, most victims were adequately insured and the province was not called upon to provide as much assistance as had been estimated. Had greater financial assistance been required, the province would have given it.

As well, as I said earlier, the level of generosity of the people of this province and this country was spontaneous and heartwarming. Their contributions covered more than three quarters of the financial assistance required to get these people back on their feet. The settlements that people received ranged from \$23 to \$629,000. The average settlement was \$20,300. The total funds that went to our residents in central Ontario from the Central Ontario Disaster Relief Committee were \$12.6 million, of which \$9.5 million was contributed by the public.

If there are heroes of this tragedy, they must be those people who volunteered their efforts and money when the going got tough for their neighbours. The government salutes these people.

**Mr. Breagh:** I will reply very briefly to the statement of the Minister of Municipal Affairs on the disaster relief fund. I wish I could report to the minister that everyone in Ontario thinks this fund is as great as he does, but that is not the case.

Let me make one suggestion to him. I was designated as this party's appointee to an all-party committee. It was one of the less arduous tasks I have had here. The committee

never met, nor was there ever any communication.

I suggest to the minister it would be a step forward if an attempt were made to remove partisan politics from such things as disaster relief. I do not think it sits very well on any government when it attempts to play some kind of political process around a disaster. I think an all-party committee would serve him well, and I recommend very highly that he do that.

#### SINGLE-INDUSTRY COMMUNITIES

**Mr. Speaker:** I would remind the minister that under the new standing orders there are only two and a half minutes left.

**Hon. Mr. Fontaine:** I want to advise the members that the advisory committee I established to examine the north's resource-dependent communities has completed its report and presented it to me this week. I will be releasing the report to the members and the public this Monday, June 2.

**Mr. Wildman:** I join with the Minister of Northern Development and Mines in congratulating the chairman of the Committee on Resource-Dependent Communities, Dr. Bob Rosehart, the other members of the committee and the staff for the work they did in preparing the report. In view of the time frame and of the complexity of the issues, this was a very difficult task, but an important and stimulating one.

Unless the government responds specifically to each of the recommendations of that report, then those efforts will prove a waste of time and money. I urge the minister to give a specific response to each of the recommendations and not to leave it sitting on the shelf, as has happened with the Fahlgren report.

#### BISHOP TUTU'S VISIT

**Mr. Gillies:** On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I feel my privileges and the privileges of other members have been seriously breached, regarding the visit tomorrow by Bishop Desmond Tutu to the special session of the Legislature.

I put this point to you. My understanding as a member was that all three parties had agreed very happily to a special legislative session tomorrow and to the bishop's address. In that regard, we expected that invitations to guests to the event would have gone from you on behalf of all the members of the Legislature. Instead, we note the invitations have been distributed under the invitation of the Premier on behalf of the government. We do not feel that is appropriate.



We are concerned about the politicization by this government of what should be a nonpartisan event, which was supported happily by all members of this assembly.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I cannot see that there is anything unduly partisan in the head of the government inviting citizens to attend a special meeting in which the bishop will be addressing the Legislature. I assure the honourable member that the tickets were distributed to all sides on a fair and equitable basis. We expect a big crowd to be here, and I think it will be a great event.

**Mr. Speaker:** On that point of information, all I can say is that it was on a motion passed by this House that the special session be held tomorrow.

2:47 p.m.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Grossman:** My question is for the Premier. Can the Premier indicate whether his government indicated to the Ontario Medical Association at any time that extra billing might be allowed in some circumstances?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I am going to refer the question to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), who attended all of the meetings. I did not, obviously, and a wide range of things were discussed.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** There was a broad range of discussions with respect to options that might be available to meet the requirements of the OMA that it have some independent means to ensure that the government would be responsive to negotiating with it in good faith. We did discuss briefly the question of what was reported as the window. We also discussed other things such as binding arbitration or continuation of the Joint Committee on Physicians' Compensation. We discussed a number of options in those meetings which, as the honourable member knows, took place over a considerable length of time.

**Mr. Grossman:** I put it to the Minister of Health that he has said in this House consistently—and I have all the times he said them—such things as: “No person in this province will be asked to pay more than the Ontario health insurance plan schedule.” “The government believes that this principle is fundamental and cannot be compromised.” “We will not and cannot consider a manner in which patients' rights will be bartered away in exchange for the relief of some patients. We have committed

ourselves to ending extra billing in this jurisdiction.”

My question to the minister is this. He has a situation today where doctors are withholding services and there are problems all over the health care system. It is all because of this kind of unbending, unyielding attitude. Today we discover that options to extra bill under some circumstances have been made available to the OMA.

I invite the minister to tell us this afternoon, not what options were discussed, but whether he put forward an option or an offer, having discussed it with the federal government, to allow the doctors to extra bill under certain circumstances.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I indicated before that we discussed a number of options, all of which were rejected. The honourable member does not quite understand what discussions and negotiations are about. Obviously, he does not understand that one talks about a number of opportunities that might be available for us to provide an answer to the request of the OMA. I can tell this House that everything was flatly, outrightly rejected. The honourable member has asked that question. It was discussed and rejected.

**Mr. Grossman:** The minister can run, but he is not going to be able to hide on this issue. This is too fundamental an issue around this province.

We know now from the newspapers that this option was discussed. Just as we found out about his amendments by reading the newspapers, we found out what the minister said at the negotiating table by reading the newspapers. We know it was discussed. The public of this province, suffering today with job actions and strikes, wants to know, did the minister make an offer to the OMA to allow doctors to extra bill under certain circumstances?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The offer of this government to the OMA has been that we will work to put together an Ontario solution to end extra billing. We made an offer to those people to discuss in a reasonable and rational manner a mechanism by which—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. New question.

### COURTHOUSES

**Mr. O'Connor:** I come back to a matter I raised with the Attorney General a couple of days ago with regard to courthouse facilities, particularly in St. Thomas. The Attorney General will be aware that a situation exists there whereby



victims, witnesses and accused are forced to occupy a 15-foot by 15-foot room. It is the only place in the building where they can sit while awaiting a trial.

Is the Attorney General aware of that situation? Does he find it acceptable? If not, what is he going to do about it?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** St. Thomas is no different from a number of other courthouses. The courthouse is owned by the county. The lease is about to come due. We have told the county we are anxious for it to make improvements in the building, and the Ministry of Government Services is looking very carefully at alternative accommodation that will be more suitable for the court than that which the county has been able to provide so far.

We hope an arrangement will be made by the owners, the county, so that we can continue in this historic building. If not, I have it from the ministry that appropriate solutions will be obtained to find an adequate courthouse in the private sector.

**Mr. O'Connor:** Putting aside entirely the overall problem of the inadequate courthouse, what is the Attorney General going to do about the problem I related to him; that is, the problem today of victims and the accused occupying the same room, where the accused has the opportunity to intimidate the victim, there is no police protection and fist fights have broken out? Will he look into providing additional accommodation to separate those two groups while waiting for a trial?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** In the first place, I do not accept that the conditions my honourable friend has described occur with any regularity. It is undoubtedly true that people who come to a court frequently wait in the waiting room outside the court. People who come to a court include witnesses or victims, as my friend puts it, and the accused, who is out on bail. That has been the situation in Ontario all my life. If it should happen that a witness called by the crown requires to be isolated because of the unpleasantness of waiting in a public waiting room, arrangements can and have been made and will be made in future as required.

**Mr. O'Connor:** This morning I spoke to a crown attorney and a sheriff of the judicial district of Elgin, who confirmed that exactly this situation happens frequently. There is no other place for these people to go.

Is the Attorney General aware that in that same building there are no fire escapes, no fire alarms, no sprinklers and no smoke detectors? Will the

Attorney General be more specific in ensuring improvements? Will he please ensure that the victims are safe while they are awaiting trial? To assist him in this regard, I offer him this smoke detector, a cheap way of ensuring some safety for those victims.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** This business of handing me a smoke detector is not very appropriate.

As my friend who is a practising lawyer knows, outside every courtroom in Ontario is a waiting room. The people who come to courts in Ontario have the opportunity to wait for their case to be called either inside the courtroom or in the waiting room outside the courtroom. If they choose to wait in either place, they may run into people who will be witnesses in their own case, or may be the accused on bail in their own case or the witnesses or accused in other cases. That happens in every courtroom in Ontario and has always happened.

There are cases where it is an important matter that witnesses who are victims should have special facilities, special isolation to protect them from embarrassment or harm. In all cases where that is required in the judgement of the crown attorney or the police or where the victim requests it, it has been and will continue to be provided.

#### ELECTRIC SHOCK THERAPY

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Last week I raised questions with him about the use of electric prods in institutions for the developmentally handicapped across the province. He indicated at that time there were only two facilities using them, and he thought they were being reduced. I now find out they are being used in another facility. The Midwestern Regional Centre has acquired a cattle prod. One person is actively being treated with this, a transferee from Bluewater under the other regime's program. The other person is being maintained with it, they say. All they have to do is show it to her and she responds.

Does the minister not think it would be appropriate to have a moratorium on the use of this equipment until he makes his decision about whether it is acceptable for use in Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** I will investigate the specific reference the honourable member has just made. I remind the member that this procedure is used as an absolute last resort and for a very short period of time. If it does not produce the results, it is not used. There is a



review going on at present, and I will take under consideration what the member has suggested.

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** I want to inform the minister that the Midwestern Regional Centre purchased this equipment from the United Co-op store in the local community for \$60. Yesterday my assistant went out to try to buy one, found one for \$38 and could not believe that the bigger \$60 unit was being used. That prod is at least two to three feet long. We purchased this little one here, which I have tried, and it hurts a great deal. It says on it: "For the use of animals. Keep out of the reach of children." Obviously, it is not out of the reach of patients in Ontario. It has two nine-volt batteries in it. It is not medically developed equipment. It is for use for large domestic animals.

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary?

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** Does the minister not think he should be providing adequate support to deal with these people humanely instead of treating them with this kind of equipment, which has not even been medically tested in Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** In the majority of our facilities it is not used. I indicated two, and the honourable member has discovered a third one. That is an indication that alternative methods of dealing with the situation are being found and are being used. That is the whole thrust of the review and the report that is being prepared right now to see whether there is any need for it.

I draw to the member's attention that this piece of equipment is not used on any resident except when it is used first by the person who is going to administer it to be sure it is not unduly excessive.

**3 p.m.**

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** These things are not adjustable; they have only one voltage regulation. The D'Arcy Place workers have it in their contract that they do not have to use it on themselves because it is so excessive. Let us be clear that it is not used by each worker before it is done. In one facility it is true that is the case.

There is a presumption of therapeutic value in what the minister is talking about. I want to raise with him the case of somebody in a Woodstock facility who was very self-abusive. They did not have the staff to deal with him appropriately. In a last desperate move they sent him to Cedar Springs. After two months of this kind of shock therapy, the person came back in almost vegetable fashion. When he finally realized he was not going to be prodded any more, he became very violent with the staff. He has gone back again.

Does the minister not realize the terribly oppressive message we are sending to these very vulnerable people instead of providing them with a humane loving community that would maximize their potential and not demean them?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** The difficulty that our staff and professional people have in some of our facilities is that the alternatives are not very humane either. There is no doubt that one can keep a person tranquillized through medication, physically restrained by using a straitjacket or locked up in a room all by himself. None of these procedures has any behavioural change effect. They do not change anyone.

The only reason this process is attempted, and it is strictly an attempt over a short period of time, is to see whether it can produce any change that will allow the person to be more independent and autonomous. It works for some people; it does not work for others. That is the whole purpose of the review.

#### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Rae:** I want to ask a question of the Minister of Health. Can the minister tell us how many elective surgeries are being cancelled over the next two days? He must have a reporting mechanism that will tell him that. He must have a reporting mechanism that will tell him how many children who were going to have elective surgery have had the surgery cancelled. Can he tell us how any cancellations might relate to the possible investigation of cancer? He must have information on that directly from the hospitals involved.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** We will be getting that information. In fact, some initial contacts were made around noon hour today; the information was not available for me to bring to the House. On Monday, I will provide the information by way of a statement to let the individuals here in the House know exactly what has transpired. It is my understanding from a report in the papers that these surgery cases are to be rescheduled over the next two weeks.

**Mr. Rae:** On April 1, 1982, the then Minister of Health, who has since gone on to different things, stated that "there is a legal requirement for hospitals to use committees if they are to retain their accreditation or teaching capacity." He went on to say, "I do not believe that hospitals can ensure patient care without the participation of physicians on these committees, and I do not expect many doctors can boycott them."

The minister will be aware that similarly as it did in 1982, the Ontario Medical Association has



suggested and urged that its members withdraw systematically from membership on committees, which the minister will know has very important legal and practical consequences in terms of patient care. Can the minister tell us precisely what steps he is taking to ensure the continuity and maintenance of the standard of care of patients in this province when doctors are systematically being told by their association to withdraw from the committees?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I regret that the OMA has seen fit to place itself as a barricade or blockade between the physicians and their patients by suggesting that this type of action should be carried on. I do not think it is appropriate, but the suggestions have been made and the advice given. Regrettably, it has even been encouraged by some members of this Legislature.

In any event, I can tell the honourable members that where we are aware of the facts coming to light that there is a wide dissociation from committees, we will move to help any hospital that finds itself in need. We have mechanisms by which we can follow up on those happenings.

If the honourable leader of the third party will provide me with the information of the events, I will take the necessary steps to ensure there is a way of monitoring the patient care inside those facilities. I hope he will provide me with information as soon as he gets it, although I can tell him that my area planning people from the institutional branch are monitoring all hospitals today and tomorrow.

**Mr. Rae:** I have not been able to get hold of the original letter from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that was written on April 29, 1982, but I can tell the minister there is a quote in the May 4, 1982, edition of the Toronto Star which clearly excerpts from that letter. I ask the minister why, in his view, a similar position has not been taken by the college and has not yet been taken by his ministry? The letter said:

"Further disruptions of longer duration would have serious implications for the health and welfare of those who need medical attention. Appropriate investigations have been made, and on the basis of information we are satisfied that essential services have been maintained, but we are concerned that further disruptions of longer duration would have serious implications for the health and welfare of those who need medical attention."

Can the minister tell us why the college is not issuing a similar letter if there is evidence with respect to the discontinuity of care?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** What each of us will do is carry out the function that is mandated through legislation. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario has indicated voluntarily to me by correspondence that it will carry out its public role of protecting the public interest and ensuring there is good-quality care of patients in institutions as well as those out of institutions. It is prepared to move when that situation is brought to its attention.

The college has also set up a hotline so people will be able to access its offices quickly in cases of need for information. In addition, my ministry has lines available to ensure that patient care is provided.

Representatives of the college have been to see me, and we have spoken on more than one occasion. They have indicated quite clearly to me that they will carry out their role of protecting the patients' interests.

**Mr. Grossman:** The yellow and cynical attempt of the Minister of Health to blame others for the strike he has on his hands because of the disgraceful treatment his government has afforded the OMA in the negotiations will not wash and will not be tolerated.

**Mr. Speaker:** New question?

**Mr. Grossman:** The minister has indicated, after weeks of us asking the government House leader where the minister's amendments are to Bill 94, that he may have the amendments for us this afternoon. Unless this party has his amendments to Bill 94 this afternoon, he will not get supply in this House today. We have been waiting long enough for those amendments. He has shared them with the media; he has shared them elsewhere—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

3:10 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** My colleague has risen to new heights, I think. I can tell the honourable gentleman opposite that we have draft amendments, which we have been working on and which we have been refining. I communicated that to the member, and I can tell both him and the rest of the people in this House that the amendments are being made available in their present form.

In fact, before the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) was able to arrive in the House, I sent a note over asking whether he was going to be here today. I said I would share those things with him today. I gave a previous draft to my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside



(Mr. D. S. Cooke); I did not give it to the Toronto Star. The form of the amendment has yet to be finalized, but I told the Health critic I would provide it to him today. It will be there today.

**Mr. Grossman:** I remind the minister that this bill was originally scheduled for today; it was listed in the Orders and Notices paper for today. When time permits, the procedures invite amendments to be filed within two hours before consideration of the bill. The committee hearings finished a month ago. The bill was introduced five months ago. The minister has been trying to push this on for some time, and he is expecting reasonable discussion and passage in the next few weeks.

Given all that, why did the minister go through the step of telling the media, and through the media the public, his interpretation of the amendments he would like to try, sharing with them the details of his amendments, without having the common courtesy, one month after the committee hearings finished, to share them with the Legislature, from which he seeks co-operation?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I accept the offer of the Leader of the Opposition—

**Mr. Grossman:** We buy the Globe and Star to find out the minister's amendments. It is a disgraceful way to do it.

**Mr. Gillies:** He treats this House with contempt.

**Mr. Grossman:** It is contemptible. This strike is the minister's strike. Let us make no mistake about that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I will wait until the members quieten. Again, you are wasting your time.

**Mr. Gillies:** You are wasting our time.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not mind standing here. Any further comments?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I was going to advise the honourable gentleman that we have worked very hard at coming to a negotiated settlement with respect to this bill, as he knows.

**Mr. Grossman:** No, we did not know that.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I had very real and visible indications that we were getting close to a negotiated solution to this thing.

**Mr. Grossman:** He did not. He never did. He should not mislead the public.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Once again, I will remind the members that interjections are out of order.

**Mr. Rae:** The Health Disciplines Act states, among other things, not only that it is an act covering professional misconduct having to do with the contravention of bylaws of the hospital but also that there is a question of professional conduct with regard to failing to carry out the terms of an agreement or contract with the hospital.

Is it the minister's understanding that there is a social contract that in exchange for admitting privileges and a professional association with a public hospital, a member of the medical profession has a social contractual obligation to serve on the general work of hospitals and in particular on the committees of hospitals?

If that is his view, we are still in the dark as to how he intends to enforce the act and how he intends to take steps to ensure that the work of hospitals and the care of patients is not disrupted ad infinitum by the actions being taken today.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I think I have asked the honourable gentleman before to provide me with the details of the situations about which he has first-hand information and said we will provide our assistance in remedying those situations.

In relation to running the public hospitals, that falls within the mandate of the boards of trustees of those communities. They do their jobs, fulfil their responsibilities and look after the administration of their bylaws and protocols in their facilities the best way they can.

In addition, there is always the role of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario when it is advised of problems developing at the local level. They have indicated, as have the hospitals, that they will keep us informed. My area planning people in institutional health are monitoring the situation, and if action is required, the college has indicated voluntarily through correspondence that it is ready and willing to make its efforts available to support the provision of health care.

**Mr. Rae:** The minister is giving us exactly the same answers—he can go back to the 1982 Hansards and see it—as the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) gave the House in 1982, when he was Minister of Health. I would have thought he might have come up with something a little different.

What guidance is the minister giving to hospitals and to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario with respect to the specific decision by physicians to cancel elective surgery in cases where it may have been scheduled for many weeks or even months in advance and their refusal to serve on committees which by tradi-



tion, and I would say by social contract, they have been serving on for a good many years?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I have not given specific advice to the college. As the honourable gentleman knows, it is independent of the government. I am not in a position to advise it with respect to enforcing its mandate of ensuring the public interest.

With respect to the hospital boards, they have an independent role to play; they are at arm's length, although we fund those institutions. They, with the operation of their executive and administrators, will determine what action is required to ensure that the people who are serving in their hospitals are not jeopardizing patient care.

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. In response to an earlier question, the minister tried to evade answering by suggesting there were options on the table for periodic extra billing or for extra billing in certain circumstances. He said the Ontario Medical Association rejected that offer. If the OMA rejected the offer, is it not fair for the public and this House to presume that the minister made the offer, since he was the only other party at the table?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The offer was that we would look at forms of providing the OMA and its members with an independent way of ensuring that we would bargain in good faith and that there would be an independent forum so it could have its advances or whatever proposals administered fairly.

Under that proposal, several items were discussed. There was the concept of the Joint Committee on Physicians' Compensation, which we talked about earlier and which the OMA brought before the committee as something it felt had worked reasonably well. We mentioned the binding arbitration route, and there were brief discussions with respect to that option, which have been reported by one of the daily papers here in the city.

**Mr. Grossman:** The minister can run, but he is not going to hide on it. I want to quote him. The minister said, "That was one of the options that was discussed with us." Who put the option of being allowed to extra bill on some occasions on the table? Was it the OMA or the government? It can only be one of two.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** That option was raised on various occasions by both parties. We discussed it, and we were party to those negotiations. We worked with those people and had real indica-

tions that there might be some acceptable discussions taking place. We talked about that option, along with binding arbitration and other things. The member will understand that during negotiations there is a wide discussion of the opportunities available for coming to a negotiated settlement.

#### ACCESS TO ABORTION COMMITTEES

**Ms. Gigantes:** My question is to the minister responsible for women's issues. I wish to emphasize it is not to the Attorney General but to the minister responsible for women's issues.

The minister must be aware that the question of equitable and timely access to abortion service is a women's issue. I ask him to put aside his role as Attorney General for a moment and tell us what he is doing, as minister responsible for women's issues, to ensure that the Liberal government meets its leader's promises of equitable and timely access to abortion service for women in Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** What I am doing is what I did yesterday, referring the question to the Minister of Health because it is a health matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** I understand the question has been referred to the Minister of Health.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is too bad other members will not have the opportunity to ask questions today.

3:20 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** As I indicated yesterday following a similar question—

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Mr. Speaker, I will sit down.

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary to the Minister of Health.

**Ms. Gigantes:** Does the Minister of Health not feel, as I do, that the minister responsible for women's issues is playing a contradictory role, in which he seems to prefer to be the Attorney General rather than the minister responsible for women's issues on this matter? Does the Minister of Health not think, as I and many of the women of Ontario think, it is time the Attorney General resigned his job as the minister responsible for women's issues if he does not want to carry out that responsibility?

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have to rule that question was directed incorrectly. It is not the



Minister of Health's responsibility which ministers are appointed.

**Ms. Gigantes:** I was not questioning the appointment; I was asking his opinion.

**Mr. Speaker:** You can ask questions regarding his responsibilities.

**Mr. McClellan:** The member has asked a clear question. You are not obliged to bail the minister out of it.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Naturally, I cannot make any response to such a comment. I have ruled the question of the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) out of order. This is question period. There is nothing out of order as far as that goes. New question.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Mr. Davis:** I have a question for the Minister of Education. Does he believe the Constitution of Canada grants the separate school system the right to discriminate in hiring at the secondary school level?

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** Let me say at the outset that I am disappointed, because in 11 years of knowing the Leader of the Opposition, I have never seen such an incredible display of bad manners.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** This is on a day when his very distinguished father is in our special visitors' gallery. I know Allan Grossman raised his son in a better tradition than what we have seen here today.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Gillies:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: We do not have to listen to that garbage.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The standing orders say this is question time, and questions can be asked.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Will the minister answer the question?

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted, it is the view of this government, as stated in this House and as argued successfully in the Ontario Court of Appeal, that in Bill 30 we seek in this province to complete a Confederation commitment to complete one system of denominational schools in

Ontario that would enjoy one set of consistent and clear constitutional rights and privileges. That is the case we have argued successfully in the Ontario Court of Appeal, and that is the case we submit to this Legislature.

**Mr. Davis:** I am aware the courts have ruled that the separate school system has a constitutional right to the preferential hiring and employment practice at the elementary level. However, the minister is setting a dangerous precedent by placing in legislation the right to discriminate in hiring practices at the secondary school level. How can the minister condone such action?

**Hon. Mr. Conway:** With all due respect to my colleague the member for Scarborough Centre, we are not setting a dangerous precedent; rather, we are completing an important and historic journey in the life and history of this province, a journey that was begun in its most recent phase by the very distinguished former member for Brampton and leader of the Progressive Conservative Party some two years ago.

Once again, I invite my colleagues in the official opposition to join the government in the completion of this journey which has presented itself to this 33rd assembly.

#### RACE RELATIONS

**Mr. Grande:** My question is for the Attorney General, with regard to the statement that he made in the Legislature yesterday. I want to send him a paper that was presented by Roy McMurtry three years ago. Does the minister not recognize and understand that the debate is over in this province in regard to the principles, goals and the desirability of having harmonious race relations in this province? We are all in agreement that this debate is over.

What specifics can the Attorney General provide to us with respect to programs and laws that will break down the barriers that feed the systemic discrimination in our province? Will the Attorney General stand in his place and tell us that in this session his government will introduce employment equity legislation and will release the data on visible minority youth unemployment, which was ready in 1984 and which the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick did not allow to be released?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I made two points in response to the same question yesterday, which can be summarized as follows.

First, a report was commissioned three or four years ago about race relations in urban housing in Toronto. About 49 recommendations were made in that report. They have been reviewed. As I



said yesterday, we have adopted all the principal ones, including 22 which are set out in the race relations statement.

I agree with my friend. The debate has taken place. The report has been made. The principles are decided. The report recommended action; nothing was done about it. On housing, we have done that.

**3:30 p.m.**

With respect to the report concerning minority women, the previous government funded a convention to receive their views and to have them make a report. They made a report in 1982. The debate is over. The report has been made. Nothing has happened.

We have not adopted all, by any means, but in the statement yesterday we adopted the principal recommendation of that report, which was to set up a consulting mode with the women's directorate and to begin to deal with these issues. What we have been trying to do is to take these old reports, meet the people who made them and say, "Now you have a government that is prepared to respond to these questions and take action."

**Mr. Grande:** Obviously, the Attorney General does not realize he is returning the debate to 1983 or even before that time. On page 5, the Attorney General states, "I am also pleased to announce that cabinet has agreed to assure that qualified members of racial minorities are fully represented on the government's agencies, boards and commissions."

Does the Attorney General not know that the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) has already shot down that idea by stating in reference to the Premier's policy of appointing visible minorities and other members of the multicultural community, based on competence, to all boards, commissions and agencies, "it is recognized that even with overt attempts this is impossible."

What response does the minister have with respect to putting that principle in that statement again when the Minister of Citizenship and Culture said it is impossible to do?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** As I have tried to make clear, I do not accept the assumption upon which the question is based. My answer stands as it is.

#### DAY CARE

**Mr. Cousens:** This question is of the Minister of Community and Social Services. In spite of the fact that we have not had any answers to any questions today, we will continue to ask questions.

On May 8 the minister told this House his white paper on child care was about to be released soon. To help the minister, the Oxford dictionary defines "soon" as "not long after the present time" or "in a short time."

It is now May 29, 21 days later. Instead of giving a flip answer, how soon will it be before we get this white paper?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** The answer is still soon, but it is predicated on the obvious fact that we want to be sure we have a package together that meets the needs of the people of this province.

**Mr. Cousens:** It would be far better if the minister told us he does not know. His paper is probably in the same place as is the paper for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mr. Van Horne), because it just keeps circling around.

Can the minister tell this House how he has allocated the additional \$6 million in the budget for child care? Perhaps it is being used for courier service as this paper is being delivered back and forth within the ministry.

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** I can assure the member it is not being used for courier service.

The \$6 million, as announced by my colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), is clearly designed to provide additional spaces. As the member knows, we made a previous commitment to provide 10,000 subsidies. But the member also knows that simply putting the subsidies out there, making them available to parents without having spaces available to which they can apply the subsidies, makes it very difficult. Therefore, the two of them have to go hand in hand.

Right now we are providing the additional subsidies. The \$6 million will be used to provide the additional spaces. The two of them go together.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENTS

**Mr. Foulds:** I have a question of the Premier. Bishop Tutu will be addressing this assembly tomorrow. The member for York South (Mr. Rae) and my party have raised many issues relating to Ontario's economic involvement with South Africa. The Premier has asked the Treasurer "to investigate where our jurisdiction lies" and to report to him "how wide our reach is in these matters."

Now that the Premier has received the Treasurer's report, what concrete action will this government take that will have a practical effect on events in South Africa and reduce Ontario's economic involvement in South Africa?



**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Let me repeat, the policy of this government is to not involve ourselves in the business of South Africa, but to register our disapproval in every way we can. As the member knows, the Treasurer has been investigating a situation with respect to his jurisdiction. I have some information on that. I understand the Ontario municipal employees retirement system board is meeting tomorrow, May 30, and the opinion of this government has been conveyed to it and to other transfer agencies under our jurisdiction.

**Mr. Foulds:** Words and opinions are easy; actions are what we judge a government and people by. I believe the Premier called on the private sector to make no additional investments in South Africa. Is he prepared to state that those companies that wish to continue to do business with the government of Ontario and that have an involvement in South Africa, companies such as Rio Algom, Moore Corp., Dominion Textile, Bata Ltd. and Ford, must now begin to divest themselves of their South African interests if they wish to continue to do business with the government of Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I agree with my honourable friend that actions do speak louder than words. He knows where this government stood when it made the initiatives with respect to the purchase of South African wine.

**Mr. Rae:** You can still go downtown and buy it.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I would just say to my honourable friend—

**Mr. Foulds:** You did not want to take an economic loss yourself.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** He can shout at me if he likes to, but let me just allow him to think through what he has suggested. What are we going to do? Cut off Rio Algom and lay off the people at Denison Mines if we do not do business with them? My friend should think it through and he will realize that he would be the same person jumping up in this House and asking, "Why are all the people laid off at Rio Algom in Elliot Lake?" He cannot have it both ways.

The policy of this government is clear. We have made a strong moral statement, unlike other governments, on this matter.

**Mr. Foulds:** The policy is clear but the action is weak.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** That is not right. I do not disagree with my honourable friend, but I ask him to think through the responsibility in this matter. I think if he were charged with any

responsibility, he would come to the conclusion that what he suggests, frankly, is not only unworkable but also unenforceable and could seriously hurt some of the people he wants to help.

### COUNSELLING PROGRAM FOR WIFE ABUSERS

**Mr. Baetz:** My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister may recall that on April 29 I asked him about future Ministry of Community and Social Services funding for New Directions. That is an Ottawa group working on one aspect of a comprehensive program under the Regional Co-ordinating Committee on Wife Assault.

In view of the fact that the minister's reply, to the effect that the decision not to continue funding was one arrived at locally, has now been sharply contradicted by both the New Directions program and the Regional Co-ordinating Committee on Wife Assault, and in view of the fact that committee chairman Joan Gullen requested the minister, in her letter dated May 14, "to set the record straight with your colleagues in the Legislature and Mr. Baetz," is the minister now prepared to admit that his reply of April 29 was incorrect and would he now accede to Joan Gullen's request to set the record straight in this Legislature for all concerned?

3:40 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** I believe my reply to the honourable member when the original question was asked was that the advisory committee made the decision. I was incorrect in that. The advisory committee is, as the name suggests, an advisory committee. Let me repeat what I said at that time. The very strong recommendation—and the strongest part of that recommendation came from the chairman—was, as just indicated, that New Directions not get that money. The two operators of New Directions are on that advisory committee.

It seemed to the officials in my Ottawa office that if they could not persuade their own colleagues on that committee who were advising us on the distribution of approximately \$900,000, then that was not where it should go. That was a strong local recommendation. I will correct the use of the word "decision" for "recommendation."

**Mr. Baetz:** It appears there is still a very clear and sharp difference between the minister's response to this situation and the local response. I would appreciate it if the minister would look into that.



However, in view of the fact that in all likelihood the problem here is not who said what, but a shortage of funding, will the minister assure us that this very worthwhile program dealing with the incidence and results of wife battering will receive further assistance from his ministry?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** I point out to the honourable member that in the past year, the Ottawa area got \$951,000—that is almost \$1 million—for this process. If we look at the distribution of funds across the whole province, I suggest to him that Ottawa got its fair share. Whether there is enough money in the whole package is open to debate, but with respect to Ottawa's general share of that pot, it got a fair share.

The second point I make to the member is that the committee is meeting again at the end of this month. It will again make recommendations to my Ottawa area office and, once again, we will look very carefully at those recommendations and make our decisions accordingly.

#### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** I have a question for the Minister of Health about the recent budget commitment of \$850 million for hospital construction over the next five to eight years.

The minister's regional allocation of these funds includes a mere \$25 million for northern Ontario, representing only three per cent of the total capital funding of \$850 million. Even on a population base, northern Ontario has 10 per cent of the province's population, and in terms of health care needs, I would venture to say it requires even more.

Given the economic difficulties faced by communities such as Sault Ste. Marie and the need to move capital spending ahead in the north, will the minister now increase the allocation of hospital funding in northern Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The allocation with respect to that phase of the capital plan for hospital construction in Ontario is in addition to the existing programs that are under way. The honourable member will be familiar with the fact that there is an EldCap program, which is also providing additional beds in the northern part of Ontario. Other opportunities are available for the construction of facilities in Wawa and other places where we have provided assistance for upgrading and repairing facilities that need the expenditures. We have commitments to improve those facilities, and the allocations are made on the basis of the commitments, which are well known at the moment. In the second phase of our

capital program, we will be taking a more intensive look at how we can modernize the rest of the hospital facilities.

**Mr. Morin-Strom:** The minister calls it the first phase, but the first phase covers starts over the next five years and completions over the next eight years.

The minister was in Sault Ste. Marie on Tuesday, and I am sure he was briefed on the need to replace that ageing facility, the Plummer Memorial Public Hospital, and the need to construct a central services unit to connect with the General Hospital. The local community and the chamber of commerce have recommended to the government that this major project, which alone represents \$60 million, be brought ahead in the government's timetable for improved health care in the Algoma district.

Will the minister now re-examine the timetable for the Plummer hospital project and other major potential projects in northern Ontario and assure us that a fair share of hospital funding will be allocated to the north?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I know of the plans for building the central services in those hospitals in Sault Ste. Marie. It is very difficult to move planning steps ahead significantly. There are steps that have to be taken all the way along in the planning. They are now in the process of making the plans. The two hospitals have submitted to the district health council their plans for sharing those central services and they have received its approval. These came to my ministry in the month of March and we are examining them. We have sent back a couple of points for some clarification.

I can tell the honourable gentleman and the members of his constituency that we have that project under close consideration. In addition, I have indicated to the current chairman of the district health council that I am going to meet with him, the mayor and the administrators of the city of Sault Ste. Marie to deal with it.

#### TOMATO PASTE IMPORTS

**Mr. Mancini:** My question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food, who I am sure is aware of the terrible situation of the Ontario tomato paste industry with goods stockpiled and unable to be sold because of cheap imports from Europe. Has the minister made representation to his counterpart in Ottawa as to what action the government of Canada is willing to take to prevent these cheap imports from coming into Ontario?



**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** When the federal government first indicated that it might provide some financial assistance to the Southern Ontario Tomato Co-operative and asked the Ontario government to share in that program, I made a special trip to Ottawa. I spoke to my counterpart and asked him whether he was prepared to limit the amount of tomato paste coming into this country if he was going to support another endeavour that would increase production of tomatoes, particularly in the part of the country where tobacco has been grown and now is being—

**Mr. Andrewes:** That is an interesting condition. The minister did not ask that condition a year ago.

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** The reduction in tobacco is quite drastic, as we all know. I have spoken to my counterpart and asked him to do all in his power to limit the amount of tomato paste coming into this country.

**Mr. Mancini:** The minister is well aware that under the programs of the previous government large amounts of money were given to different industries to expand the tomato paste industry. Is the minister going to keep a close eye on the production levels of these industries so that farmers who have made tremendous investments will not be harmed?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** Yes, we will be keeping an eye on that and doing everything in our power to see that we retain our present production or even increase it. However, we have to have the support of the federal government to limit the amount of tomato paste coming into this country. If we can restrict the amount of paste coming in, there is no question but that there will be all kinds of opportunity for extra production of tomatoes in Ontario.

## PETITIONS

### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Jackson:** I have several thousand signatures from Burlington and area constituents who are petitioning the government as follows:

"We strongly oppose the unilateral actions of the Liberal government of Ontario, which have created an atmosphere of adversarial confrontation with the health care providers of this province.

"We deplore the disruption of our world-renowned system of private and public health care by the imposition of a state-controlled health care system.

"We, therefore, respectfully petition the government of Ontario to begin immediate and

meaningful consultation with the health care providers of this province in a manner that will sustain the quality and excellence of health care for the people of Ontario."

## ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Mr. Davis:** I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor signed by 1,258 residents of Scarborough:

"We, the undersigned beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we are convinced of the value of a strong public education system, and believe that this system will be damaged if Bill 30 is implemented, we petition the Legislature of Ontario to withdraw plans to extend funding to Roman Catholic separate secondary schools."

3:50 p.m.

## REPORT BY COMMITTEE

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Mr. D. R. Cooke from the select committee on economic affairs presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee recommends that the deadline for the tabling of its final report be extended to October 15, 1986.

**Mr. D. R. Cooke:** Briefly, this report is the result of a motion passed in committee this morning because some difficulties in scheduling committee time have occurred since last November. I have brought this problem to the attention of the House leaders, whose meeting occurred this morning. I am involved in active discussion with the House leaders and I expect that the matter is going to be resolved.

On motion by Mr. D. R. Cooke, the debate was adjourned.

## MOTION

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Harris exchange places in the order of precedence for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### ARBOUR DAY ACT

Mr. Laughren moved first reading of Bill 47, An Act proclaiming Arbour Day.



Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Laughren:** In order to put the fears of my colleagues to rest, this is not a bill that would nationalize all the trees in the province. Rather, it would require each local municipality to designate a day in May as Arbour Day.

#### MYLAKE MINES LIMITED ACT

Mr. Harris moved first reading of Bill Pr19, An Act to revive Mylake Mines Limited.

Motion agreed to.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved resolution 4:

That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and the necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the period commencing June 1, 1986, and ending June 30, 1986, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This is a routine motion. Because of a variety of events and the rather late beginning of the session, the bills of the province have been paid by special warrants and that money is still current. Obviously, with the Legislature in session, continuing with special warrants is totally inappropriate.

The motion for interim supply has been in Orders and Notices for a number of days. While I considered asking the House to give interim supply for the next five months, I thought it more appropriate to follow the traditional period and ask for just one month, ending at the end of June. The House will be in session at that time and interim supply can be asked for again for a period through the summer months.

The motion covering June 1 to June 30 will be for approximately \$2.4 billion. For those who will be participating in the debate, it may be interesting to note that without the motion, transfer payments, including payments to hospitals, doctors, municipalities, family benefits recipients, suppliers accounts and civil servants' salaries, cannot be paid. It is also interesting to note for students of the arcane that statutory payments can be made. These include interest on the public debt—thank heavens, the most significant item in terms of dollars—pension payments, loans to the Ontario Development Corp. and all payments from trust accounts.

The process is well known. Following the budget, the estimates of expenditures were tabled by my colleague the Chairman of Management

Board of Cabinet (Ms. Caplan). The House leaders are in the process of distributing the estimates to the various committees for review in the time available to the committees between now and whenever their work is completed. It has often been a subject of criticism as far as governments are concerned that the money is spent before the supply bill is passed. Yet we know that in our process the supply bill is usually the last item put before the Legislature before adjournment and often at that stage a large percentage of the total budget has already been used up in paying for the day-to-day operation of the government and its various responsibilities.

For that reason, interim supply is required. I hope the House will give a reasonable and speedy passage to the motion. For your interest, Mr. Speaker, payments of approximately \$80 million for the Ontario health insurance plan will be due within the next few days, an additional \$80 million for post-secondary education, \$130 million for general legislative grants to school boards and \$200 million will be payable in the early days of June for hospital maintenance.

Naturally, I am prepared to listen and to respond to any comments made by the honourable members. I will not recall to everybody's attention what is obvious, that we have been discussing these general matters, financial and otherwise, since the House resumed five weeks ago. There has been ample opportunity for the discussion of these matters. I look forward to hearing the comments of the members at this time.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Are there any questions or comments?

**Miss Stephenson:** I rise to participate in the debate—

**The Deputy Speaker:** No. Are there any questions or comments? There being none, the member for York Mills.

**Miss Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, will you clarify for me in the situation of the introduction of a motion such as that provided by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) whether is it true that the new rules provide for questions or comments after the introduction? Do we not go directly into debate about the statement?

**The Deputy Speaker:** Yes, I understand they do.

**Miss Stephenson:** I am sorry. I did not realize that.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Presumably, the member is going to be making some comments.



**Miss Stephenson:** I anticipate the participation of most members will be related to comments regarding the expenditure process and the estimates booklets which have been received by members.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The chairman of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly is thinking about this.

**4 p.m.**

**Miss Stephenson:** Seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the Treasurer has stated very clearly, the urgency of the completion of this debate could have been obviated totally had the Treasurer introduced his motion for interim supply earlier. I have been in this House for close to 11 years now, a much shorter time than that enjoyed by the current Treasurer, who has been around here for ever, if that is the appropriate measure of time to use. In the nearly 11 years I have been here, I have never experienced the use of special warrants at the level at which they were used this year by this government and for an extended period of time even while the House was in session. That was a most unusual circumstance.

As the Treasurer suggested, he could ask for interim supply for a longer period at this point. I gather we will be going through this same interim supply debate at the end of June again to permit the Treasurer to continue to pay the bills of Ontario, and I wonder whether that is the most appropriate use of the time of the House.

I also wonder whether the use or, one might even suggest, the abuse of the special warrant procedure earlier this year is something the Treasurer should not reconsider as far as potential future action is concerned. That amount of money by special warrant, it seems to me, flies in the face of the democratic process, which can be introduced to examine the monetary requirements of government while the House is in session and which should be utilized appropriately.

There are several items that rear their heads as a result of the distribution of estimates booklets and the budgetary information provided by the Treasurer. As a result of his budgetary underestimate, the Treasurer is again suggesting that the growth of this province is not going to be quite as great as many others suggest this year. Indeed, he is being supported slightly, but ever so slightly, by the report of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development that came out on Canada alone, not necessarily Ontario. Perhaps the Canada figure might be extrapolated to suggest that his figure of 4.2 per cent in 1986

should be upped by a little. Even OECD, which is chronically pessimistic about things, has suggested it might be slightly higher than the Treasurer is predicting for this province.

In spite of the fact the Treasurer is being pessimistic about the increase in revenues, and in spite of the fact he has had a very significant amount of money gratuitously provided for his capacious pocket this year, he has not made any attempt to curb—

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I am told there is not much room in my pocket.

**Miss Stephenson:** The Treasurer does not want me to say what I said before. All right, I will keep quiet. I will not touch that one with a 10-foot pole.

None the less, the Treasurer has not made any kind of provision for a reduction of the item in the provincial budget that grows faster than any other; that is, the amount of money required to service the debt of Ontario. If one looks at the budgetary requirements of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, one will find that number looks astronomical this year when compared to the number that was provided last year or the year before. It is growing by leaps and bounds.

Instead of increasing very dramatically the amount of money being expended in administration by this government, it seems to me there should have been a very significant application of those increased funds, somewhere between \$2.2 billion and almost \$3 billion, to the reduction of that consolidated debt and the reduction of the projected cash requirements for next year. It is the one action that would have reduced, at least partially, that very significant growth in the largest expenditure for which this province is responsible on an annual basis.

When one has that money, surely it is time to be as thrifty, as careful and as foresighted as possible and to expend the funds for the purpose of relieving future generations of the burden of that debt. Surely the Treasurer understands that if he does reduce the requirement of approximately 11.7 cents out of every dollar to be directed towards debt servicing this year, he has only slightly more than 88 cents left to provide the services the citizens of Ontario need or demand. If he permits that percentage of the amount from each dollar to grow, as he has this year again, he is going to ensure that there is less capability for the provision of those services and needs for the people of this province next year and the year after.



It does not take a very large cerebral capacity to understand that when one has to devote more of one's money to servicing debt, one will not have as much for the provision of services. Having understood that, the Treasurer might have applied his talents for frugal budgeting, as he regularly keeps telling us he does, to the reduction of that debt and a more appropriate mechanism for the distribution of funds within the government area of responsibility.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The member wants us to spend more, though.

**Miss Stephenson:** That is not what I am saying. I am saying he should have serviced the debt and reduced his net cash requirement more significantly this year, instead of providing a huge increase for administration in every ministry. That can only be accounted for by a very significant increase in the employment of staff for the purposes of serving this government.

As members are very well aware, for a period of about nine years there was an annual reduction in the total number of Ontario government employees, because the previous government understood that the people of this province felt that as long as we could maintain services and the quality of those services, we should not be the most expansive employer within Ontario. There was a very careful effort designated towards ensuring the services and quality were maintained but the numbers required to supply or deliver those services reduced annually. This year, for the very first time in a decade, we have a significant increase in the number of Ontario government employees.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** That is because of all those good new programs.

**Miss Stephenson:** It has nothing to do with the introduction of new programs, as the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) continues to bleat, because there are no new programs. There are some continuations of excellent programs devised by the previous government, the introduction of new wrinkles into programs that had been in place in a number of areas and some little additional bumps to old programs, but there is absolutely nothing new. The member for St. Catharines, who is rapidly retreating from the House at the moment, it should be noted, should retract that statement publicly at some point.

I find it appalling that the expenditures of this government are increasing this year at a rate that is the highest percentage rate of increase of any government in Canada, including the federal government. This government came into office in a well-managed province, in which the fiscal

arrangements were sound and the financial management excellent. There were no major problems in that area. This government has not been hamstrung with the kind of millstone around the neck—not just around the neck but around the neck, the waist and both feet—that the federal government has had, burdened with the tremendous amount of debt that was raised by the previous Liberal government in that jurisdiction. I do not think the people of Ontario want that kind of Liberal legacy once this government has been removed from office in this province. They are asking that this government provide the kind of prudent frugality, sensible direction and appropriate increase in support necessary to maintain quality services in this province.

**4:10 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Such as buying oil companies and a jet.

**Miss Stephenson:** What jet? It would have been a great idea. I am sure the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) would be congratulating everybody if there were one right at the moment.

As a matter of fact, Ontario has been parsimonious in the services it has traditionally supplied to the members of the executive council and others within government. However, all that has changed; it has all changed marvellously. We see that in various ministers' offices; the costs of administration have doubled, tripled or almost quadrupled in a couple of instances. We can only ask, "What on earth is this for?"

We have listened to the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) tell us this government has narrowed down. It did away with three policy secretariats. Save two, I believe, every one of the 74 staff in those policy secretariats is employed within the government. Every individual who has assumed responsibility in those areas has been provided with additional recompense for the services that are being provided.

There is precious little saving in dollars at all; in fact, there is an increase in the expenditure of dollars for Cabinet Office. Mr. Speaker, do you want to know the degree of increase? For Cabinet Office, the additional sum is more than \$3 million. When combined with the Office of the Premier, it is up by more than 47 per cent from last year, which was an increase over the year before.

This is not careful management of money. This is profligate support for the needs of tired ministers to ensure they do not fall flat on their faces everyday within the House when they have questions addressed to them, or to ensure they



have lots of support when they go out to meet the public so that support can then tell them the answers to problems that are posed or questions that are asked.

It is very significant that the proposed expenditures of this government will increase at a rate of 7.4 per cent in 1986-87 over the previous year in dollar terms. That amounts to \$2,176,000,000. Again, for the benefit of the loud member for St. Catharines, there are no significant new programs introduced in this government's activity. There is no significant program that could account for such a large increase. Almost all the increase appears to be for administration and increasing staffing levels, especially within ministers' offices or the main offices of ministries.

If one looks very carefully at the total amount spent by ministers in this government, I doubt that one would find it is less than that expended by previous governments. I would be willing to wager—and I have not done this calculation yet, but I shall—that the amount of money expended by these somewhat fewer ministers is greater than the amount that was expended by the ministers in the previous government.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** We had to replace the furniture that disappeared.

**Miss Stephenson:** Oh, come off it.

**An hon. member:** Even the typewriters.

**Miss Stephenson:** Typewriters, my foot.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I am using the same old car. It even has a sun roof.

**Miss Stephenson:** I would like the Treasurer to know that for the first four years as a minister in the Ontario government, I used a car that had been used by a previous minister. It was six years old when it was traded for the first time. Now, cry; go ahead and cry. The Treasurer has a perfectly good car, in good shape, which is not all that old. He should keep it; there is no doubt about that.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Was it a Cadillac?

**Miss Stephenson:** No, it was not a Cadillac.

**Mr. McClellan:** Why is she talking so much about her car?

**Miss Stephenson:** It is not my car; it never was my car. The car belongs to the people of Ontario, and I would hope each one of us would remember that.

**Mr. McClellan:** She is obsessed with her loss of a car.

**Miss Stephenson:** I am not obsessed with my loss of car at all. It was the loud member for St.

Catharines who raised the car issue, and the Treasurer, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Miss Stephenson:** The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk was wont to allow to the House that he felt very unhappy that he had an old car that used to belong to the previous Treasurer.

**Mr. Polsinelli:** I know what it is like to drive one's own car.

**Miss Stephenson:** I do not mind driving my own car, except when some members get on the road driving their cars, we should notify the Ontario Provincial Police.

This government is not in any way as prudent or as careful with public funds as the Treasurer would like any one of us to believe. He keeps talking about the fact that people in St. George manage their budgets well. They learn to do this on the farm; they learn to be careful with money, which is scarce on the farm. "Parsimonious" is an appropriate word. "Stingy," I am not sure about. "Frugal" is probably a more appropriate word. That is not demonstrated in this budget, however, nor in the estimates of any of the ministries.

As I said, the expenditures in the Office of the Premier and the Cabinet Office together this year are increased by more than 47 per cent over last year, and that was an increase of something in the order of 10 per cent more than the year before. In the Cabinet Office, the increase is in the order of \$3 million. There is an interesting little reduction in the Office of the Premier's estimates, something in the order of \$700,000 related to main office staff and salaries.

We know the entire administrative staff of the Premier's office has been transferred. The question is whether it has been transferred to the Cabinet Office or to the Ministry of Treasury and Economics. I believe the section that provided for the administration of the Office of the Premier, the payment of salaries, has been transferred to the Ministry of Treasury and Economics. It is interesting that in the main office of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics there is an increase of \$700,000, which just matches the Premier's office. Is that not marvelous?

What is the extra \$3 million for in the Cabinet Office? What is the Cabinet Office doing now that it did not do before? Is the Cabinet Office accommodating the 21 policy advisers who immigrated from all sorts of places, including Ottawa, to the Premier's office to provide him with the kind of wisdom that will help him to keep the media in Toronto under control? That is



a question I believe needs to be answered. Why would the Cabinet Office need an additional \$3 million?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Does the member think the media can be controlled? I do not.

**Miss Stephenson:** The minister does not have to control the red Star; it controls him anyway.

The wages bill alone in the Cabinet Office has increased by \$3 million, a figure I want the Treasurer to know is higher than the total operating budget for the Cabinet Office when the Conservatives were in power. That is just the increase. The increase this year is higher than the total operating budget ever was when the previous government was in place in the Cabinet Office. Why? What is the government doing?

Nothing in the estimates book tells us what they are doing. Nothing defines any need for that kind of increase. Is the Cabinet Office holding seances, conferences or conventions? Are they travelling all over the place? Why do they need a \$3-million increase in the Cabinet Office? Is it because the work of the secretariats is now being done in the Cabinet Office? If that is so, then the government has had to have hired additional people to do the work done by the 74 it moved out of the secretariats into various other ministries to accommodate that demand for \$3 million.

This is a very peculiar situation. It is a puzzlement, as a matter of fact, and it is one puzzlement that should be solved by clarity and with some crystal kind of exposition of what is going on. We have been told on numerous occasions that this government is open, free and provides all the information. We know that is not the truth, but I invite it to begin by giving us the factual information about this activity.

**4:20 p.m.**

The ministers' office staffs have increased very dramatically, as I said earlier, in almost all circumstances. Not only have the numbers increased but the cost has also increased, by geometric progression in some circumstances. While there may be fewer ministers in cabinet, there is no decrease in cost, because the total expenditure is higher for the responsibilities and activities of ministers, the Cabinet Office and the Office of the Premier in total than it ever was in any previous government in this province. I am not sure that is something this government should be proud of.

We are aware that the salaries being paid to ministers' staffs are in some instances 50 per cent higher than any that were ever paid to the staffs of members of cabinet or ministers in previous governments.

**Mr. Polsinelli:** Ask the Chairman of Management Board.

**Miss Stephenson:** Oh, come on. I have heard the Chairman of Management Board. She says the government has picked brightest and the best. If they are the brightest and the best, this government is in deep trouble, and I mean that. They are not worth 50 per cent more than the excellent people who served previous ministers. In fact, it is a measure of this government's profligacy, its wild expenditure pattern, that it has gone in the direction of providing that kind of salary increase in that short a space of time. That is not the right way to function.

**Mr. Polsinelli:** Has the member gone through their qualifications? She does not know how qualified they are.

**Miss Stephenson:** I have gone through their qualifications and I have looked at them very carefully. Several of them should not be there at all, and many do not have the kind of qualifications that many former staff members had. I do not believe they are any better than the former staff members were at all. I mean that, bar none.

However, that is beside the point. This is simply one example of the fact that this government is not as careful with public money as it should be, and that worries me. I do not think it is a characteristic of this Treasurer. I believe this Treasurer feels strongly that he should be careful, that he should not expend public moneys with abandon. However, he has not been able to persuade his colleagues of that, I fear. He certainly has not been able to persuade the Chairman of Management Board, who should be able at this point to keep the damper on that kind of growth in both numbers and dollars. That has not happened.

The Treasurer should be aware that we are going to keep a very close eye on this activity to ensure that the public is made aware of what will happen if it continues in the future. It has been bad enough over this 11-month period. It is obviously going to be worse for the next 12 months. After that, this government had better watch out.

There are a couple of ministries about which I am very knowledgeable, having been there for seven years or so. I am aware that in those combined ministries the minister had a full staff of never more than 14, including clerical staff and secretaries. These were not highly paid advisers; they were people who actually did a lot of work. The total number at any one time was never higher than 14. I am also aware that the two ministers responsible for those combined minis-



tries now have more than 31 personal staff serving them.

In the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, ministry administration has increased in these estimates by 827.7 per cent. How do members like them apples? There is absolutely nothing new, not one thing. It is slated to increase by another three per cent to \$2,114,000 in 1986-87. That is unprecedented, unbelievable and absolutely wrong. Why should that be happening? The minister has more personal staff in his office to look after that one segment of the former minister's responsibility than the former minister had for three ministries. There is no need for this; it is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Salaries and wages in the main office of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities have increased from \$280,000 to \$476,000. That is an increase of 70 per cent in one year. How can the minister account for or justify that? I am sure he can account for it. I would like to hear him account for it, but can he please tell me how he can justify it?

**Mr. Polsinelli:** How do you justify quadrupling our constituency budgets? The Tories and the NDP got together to do that.

**Miss Stephenson:** Oh, really? Oh, I see. Yes, and there was absolutely nobody on the Liberal side who wanted any increase. No, never. There were demands for that for ages from the member's colleagues in the Liberal government. We understood—

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** We voted against it.

**Miss Stephenson:** Not before, they did not. At that point, yes, but look at the records before that.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It was a money grab by you on the way out.

**Miss Stephenson:** I shall ignore that.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

**Miss Stephenson:** If I were to use the rhetoric of the Chairman of Management Board or of the member for Downsview, I would say that the only purpose of that increase was to serve the people of Ontario better, and that is the rationale which I believe is appropriate in that instance.

**Mr. Polsinelli:** It is Yorkview, by the way.

**Miss Stephenson:** Pardon me; the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli). To the member for Downsview (Mr. Cordiano), I am sorry.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It used to be Vernon Singer.

**Miss Stephenson:** The member for Yorkview?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Downsview.

**Miss Stephenson:** No, he was not the member for Downsview; Odoardo Di Santo was the member for Downsview.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member for the old riding of Downsview was Vernon Singer.

**Miss Stephenson:** That was a long time ago. Vernon Singer was the member for Wilson Heights.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Among other things.

**Miss Stephenson:** He is also a member of that profession which the Treasurer loves so dearly, the legal profession.

**Mr. Foulds:** He is not a doctor.

**Miss Stephenson:** No, he is a lawyer. He is one of the Treasurer's friends.

There must be some very close questioning of the ministries of Colleges and Universities and Skills Development. The Ministry of Skills Development also has had an increase for administration, although that minister is responsible for both. Again, there should not be any huge increase in the administrative cost there, because there are not any really new programs. There are expansions of old programs and a couple of modifications of some of our very good old programs, but there are no new ones. Therefore, I would have to question why there should be that kind of significant increase in ministry administration in those two instances.

The ministry administration in the Ministry of Education is increased this year by 8.4 per cent, and salaries in the main office—as members know, that is the main office in which are housed the minister and the deputy minister—are increased by 30 per cent. That is monstrous. In fact, the program administration in education programs is up by 12 per cent this year, but the increase is significantly higher than that in the minister's office and it is almost four times higher than the increase in the expenditures for the special schools for the blind, for the blind and the deaf, and for the deaf and for the demonstration schools for those students with specific and severe educational incapacity. The increase there is seven per cent. Why does the minister's office need an increase of 30 per cent when all that is to be granted to these special schools is an increase of seven per cent?

**4:30 p.m.**

It is indeed troublesome that we have this huge increase in administration costs for this government, costs that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) assured us would not be there because they were paring down, they



were decreasing, they were eliminating a whole lot of things which would ensure that the cost of the government would not grow so rapidly. Here we have a budget and estimates that demonstrate the highest rate of growth of any jurisdiction in Canada. Is that something we are going to be proud of?

**Mr. Mancini:** It is the most popular government in Canada.

**Miss Stephenson:** I do not care whether it is popular or not. Can we be proud of it?

**Mr. Polsinelli:** We should always be proud of growth.

**Miss Stephenson:** The member should not be proud of growth that is not controlled, and this is not controlled growth.

**Mr. Mancini:** The member is distorting the facts.

**Miss Stephenson:** I am not distorting the facts. If the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) is not quiet, I will go over and make sure, since I am taller than he is—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. The member for Essex South will please withdraw the words, "The member is distorting the facts."

**Mr. Mancini:** Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the words, "The member is distorting the facts." I really would like to—

**The Deputy Speaker:** No. Order. Carry on, member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson).

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** How about asking her to withdraw the physical threats?

**Miss Stephenson:** Oh, I will be glad to withdraw them.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am not sure "distorting the facts" is on our list of parliamentary no-nos. Actually, I thought "hypocrite" was on our list, and the Speaker did not respond to it earlier today. I think "distorting the facts" is a rather nice way of putting it.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I do not believe I recall the original withdrawal.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Forget it. He did not say anything.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry, I did not hear that.

**Mr. Polsinelli:** He did not say anything.

**Miss Stephenson:** That is normal. He never does.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. For the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), I do not

remember the words "hypocrite" or "hypocrisy" today.

**Mr. Breaugh:** You have a short memory.

**Mr. Foulds:** You forget question period.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Today?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Today.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry, I was not in the chair and I do not recall it. Carry on, member for York Mills.

**Miss Stephenson:** Mr. Speaker, out of charity, I shall withdraw the invitation I was about to issue to the member for Essex South to join me in the corridor after this session, because I will be glad to demonstrate to him that I am factually correct and am not distorting anything. The only distortion that is going on in this House is the position this government is taking about the fact that it is going to control expenditures when indeed it is not.

It is interesting that the Treasurer, who has talked about the need to maintain strict control—

**Mr. Mancini:** I withdraw my withdrawal.

**Miss Stephenson:** The member cannot withdraw his withdrawal.

**Mr. Breaugh:** He can. He does it all the time.

**Miss Stephenson:** No, he cannot.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** This debate is deteriorating.

**Miss Stephenson:** As soon as the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) came back, it deteriorated.

It is unfortunate that the Premier and the members of this government have ganged up on the Treasurer and have overridden his natural tendency to be careful, to be parsimonious, to be frugal, to be stingy and to ensure that the money of the taxpayers of Ontario is expended wisely. I remind each and every member in this House that the dollars we deal with are not our dollars; they do not belong to us. They belong to every single individual who works in the province, be he employee or employer. Those dollars are ours only in trust to manage, and it is that management which I think is important.

It would be delightful if we could be assured by those few members of the Liberal Party in the House that they will prevail upon the Premier and the other members of the executive council to be more careful and to be less strident with the Treasurer, to provide less pressure on him, to ensure those taxpayers' dollars are expended in the most prudent way possible.



**Mr. Mancini:** We kicked the big spenders out of office.

**Miss Stephenson:** No, you did not. The big spenders were kicked into office by our friends on the left. They are doing it in spades. We will be able to demonstrate to the people of Ontario that they are the big spenders of Canada. People are beginning to see it right now because they did not do any of the things they promised to do with the additional money available to them. All this government did was to increase administration. That does not necessarily add to the quality of service for the people of Ontario.

**Mr. Breough:** Come on, Bette; toughen up.

**Miss Stephenson:** All right. If the member for Oshawa insists, I shall. I am being entirely too gentle. I must be a little more severe with the members of the government. I have difficulty being excessively tough with the Treasurer because I know him to be a careful man. Given his own way, he would expend the taxpayers' money in the same way he expends his own.

**Mr. Breough:** A nickel at a time.

**Miss Stephenson:** One penny at a time, one penny here, one penny there, one penny elsewhere. Poor Dorothy, promises, promises, nothing else and no money.

**Mr. Breough:** That is what she told me.

**Miss Stephenson:** Exactly. However, unhappily he is not left to his own devices; he is pressed upon.

Interjection.

**Miss Stephenson:** The Minister of the Environment does not have much effect. All he got was \$14 million and it all should have gone to the Ministry of Health anyway. The other ministers have obviously been able to persuade the Premier to remove that responsibility and that characteristic from the Treasurer in an inappropriate way this year so that there is a massive increase in administration cost, which is not the correct direction for this government to take.

For example, ministry administration in the Ministry of Community and Social Services is up by 14.9 per cent this year. There was a decrease last year when the minister came in, but it has gone up. They have eliminated the decrease, overridden all of it and gone far beyond the rate of inflation. What has happened? In the main office expenditure, the salary component is up by 13.1 per cent. Financial services are up by 14.8 per cent, most of it in salaries, Supply and office services have an increase of 10.8 per cent. These are the areas of the ministry that do not

necessarily directly provide services to people. The total spending increase on income maintenance is 5.8 per cent. Compare that with 14.9 per cent. Program administration for the adult and children's services area is up by 28 per cent on all programs.

**Mr. Polsinelli:** Why does the member not break that down into real dollars rather than percentages?

**Miss Stephenson:** It is the percentage that is important. It is the percentage that is the measure of this government's concern for the delivery of dollars for services rather than administration of government offices. That is where the real problem lies with this budget and these estimates.

**Mr. Mancini:** The member is wrong again.

**Miss Stephenson:** Absolutely not. I am sorry, but there is no doubt about the fact that in the area of skills development, for example, the overall budget for skills development is up by 4.1 per cent, but ministry administration has increased from \$2.4 million to \$4.6 million, an increase of 106 per cent. How does the member like that? That is not an appropriate way to expend public dollars.

**4:40 p.m.**

In actual fact, the money allocated directly to skills training in this budget has been decreased by a little more than seven per cent. We have a 106 per cent increase in administration and a seven per cent decrease in the amount of dollars allocated specifically to skills training programs.

That philosophical approach to the budgetary exercise is one at which I believe the Treasurer and others must look critically, because it is not the right thing to do at the present time. With the scarce public dollars that are available, the dollars that come out of the pockets of every working person of this province, we should be ensuring that the vast majority of increases and the largest increases are directed towards the provision of necessary services, not towards the provision of extra staff for ministers or extra people in the office to talk to the press or to talk to whomever.

**Mr. Breough:** Or for parliamentary assistants.

**Miss Stephenson:** I am sorry? Oh, parliamentary assistants.

**Mr. Breough:** Why leave them off the hook?

**Miss Stephenson:** Okay. It is very disturbing that the normal characteristics which we anticipated of this Treasurer have been so overridden



by the rest of cabinet. It is very disturbing that the kind of windfall which he had in his hot little hands has been expended so inappropriately in this budget and through these estimates. It was a windfall as a result of the excellent management of this province in the past by the previous government and the kinds of provisions for increased employment which ensured that there would be increased revenue in the province. It was that increased revenue which has provided the Treasurer with a windfall.

In addition, we must remember that the Treasurer in October, fearful that he would never have enough money to accommodate the demands of all his cabinet colleagues, increased the taxes on the people of Ontario by \$730 million. That increase, I would remind him, is a higher tax bite out of the wages and salaries of the people of the province than the federal budgets have produced over the last two years. There should have been tax reductions in this budget.

**Mr. Mancini:** There were no tax increases this year. The member knows that.

**Miss Stephenson:** There is no need whatever for the member for Essex South to develop verbal diarrhoea right now. Pardon me, I withdraw that word. There is no need for him to use semantics theateria, which is providing us with some difficulty.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** You are suffering from intellectual constipation.

**Miss Stephenson:** The obstipation which occurs in this House occurs as a result of the kind of budgetary exercise which the Treasurer is putting us through. If that is not constipated, I do not know what is. He had the chance to do something really progressive, and what has he done? He has sat on his haunches and done nothing except fatten the budgets for administration in various ministries. That is wrong and that he should not have done.

It is disappointing that the natural characteristics of the Treasurer were so debased by his cabinet colleagues and that he was overruled so frequently by the Premier that he has produced a set of estimates which provides us with the opportunity to be as critical as this simply about one area—I am not even going to talk about the other areas—the area of administration in ministers' offices and senior administration in the various ministries.

The kind of activity taking place there is a complete turnaround, a complete about-face from the kind of activity which the people of the province demonstrated clearly for years that they wanted the government of Ontario to take: to pare

down the cost of government; to pare it, not to slice it to the bone but to pare it. That is what was being done on a regular basis for a period since 1976 until this budget.

With this budget we have the Marcos demonstration in Ontario. We have Imelda controlling all the capital building in the province, depending upon what it is that government decides it wants to do politically in terms of capital construction. We have the Treasurer bound hand and foot by the Premier and his colleagues and unable to protect the taxpayers' dollars from the inroads of those minister colleagues who insist on having twice the staff in their offices that any previous minister had, paying them twice as much as any previous minister did and increasing administration right across the board in ministries within this government. That is not the direction which should be pursued in this province at this time when we know we are not going to have extra-large amounts of money forever.

We should reduce our debt, get rid of the type of expenditure which grows faster than any other, that which is required to service the debt, and ensure that we concentrate the expenditure of taxpayers' dollars upon the provision of needed services. That is the role, the requirement and the obligation of the Ontario government.

The Treasurer knows that is the obligation of this government. It is unfortunate that he has not managed to get out of the manacles of his colleagues long enough to demonstrate to the people of Ontario that he has the capacity to do what he said he was going to do. For years, whenever there was any debate on the budget, the Treasurer's favourite words were "frugal," "stingy," "you are not doing it right," "you are spending too much money" and "you are wasting money."

This government is wasting money. It is wasting all kinds of dollars on things which do not benefit the people of Ontario. I hope the Treasurer will develop the sensitivity I know he has and allow it to grow and expand, so he can take the ruling role he should have in cabinet and ensure the way the taxpayers' dollars of this province are expended is appropriate for the needs of Ontario, and not necessarily to meet the demands of ministers and ministries in terms of their administration and the activities they personally want to be involved in.

I know the Treasurer has that capacity and those characteristics and that he would be willing to exercise them given half a chance. Up to this point, he has not been given half a chance. It is



time his cabinet colleagues realize their demands, their so-called needs, which I translate in other ways—

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** On housing.

**Miss Stephenson:** I would be delighted to have some money expended on housing, but not on administration of the Ministry of Housing or on the administration of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Skills Development or any other. That is not where we need the money. We need the money in the programs. We need the money for the transfers which are necessary. That is the area we should be concentrating on.

For example, the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) stood up today and made a big thing about the request to comply with the recommendations of the Skolnik Instructional Assignment Review Committee, a very learned committee. I should know. I appointed it to look at the problems of time and work in the college system. We knew it was a problem and we knew it would never be resolved by negotiation. Because he has accepted those recommendations, as any logically thinking person would have, it has cost an additional \$60 million. That is understandable. But do not stand up and tell the community that the college system is being granted an additional \$60 million out of the largess of the heart of the Premier. It is to meet the requirements of agreeing to the recommendations of the Skolnik committee, and that is rational.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member was strangling it for so many years.

**4:50 p.m.**

**Miss Stephenson:** It was never strangled. The college system was never strangled, but there were developing problems in some areas and those areas had to have the solution found. That type of solution is not found in negotiation. It is found as a result of a critical examination by thoughtful people with the time to do it.

I took that advice because it was given to me by very knowledgeable people, not by my colleagues in the House necessarily, but by Carl Goldenberg, by those who had looked at the college system in other areas and by knowledgeable educators who felt very strongly that it was not the type of solution that could be found in negotiations or in a political setting. It had to be done as a result of a very careful examination.

That is precisely why that committee was appointed. It provided excellent recommenda-

tions, and I am pleased the minister has ensured that those recommendations will be followed.

The Treasurer should not look so tired and discouraged. I have sat for hours on end in this House listening to him, and far too long listening to the kind of rudeness I would not have believed could have emanated from the mouth of so young a person as the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway). The lecture he was trying to deliver today was hypocritical in the extreme.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order.

**Miss Stephenson:** We have just learned from the Treasurer that is not a word that is on the list of no-nos.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** "Hypocrite" is.

**Miss Stephenson:** I said "hypocritical." I did not say he was a hypocrite. I said his performance was hypocritical.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order. Perhaps you would withdraw the word "hypocritical."

**Miss Stephenson:** I shall withdraw the word "hypocritical." I shall define the language that was used by the member for Renfrew North as language that befits the kind of guttersnipe he was attempting to portray today. Is the word "guttersnipe" a no-no too?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Look up guttersnipe.

**Mr. Breagh:** Your limited vocabulary is going to get you in real trouble.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I think to address my honourable colleague's remarks as guttersnipe remarks is very unparliamentary.

**The Acting Speaker:** Would you please withdraw the word "guttersnipe"?

**Miss Stephenson:** Do I have to withdraw that word as well?

**The Acting Speaker:** Knowing the background of the honourable member, I am sure her vocabulary is very elaborate and she could possibly use another word that is not so offensive.

**Miss Stephenson:** I shall indeed. I shall withdraw that word and simply suggest that the minister's behaviour today befitted that of a juvenile miscreant. He was obviously behaving in a manner that should have been dealt with by his colleague the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Keyes).

Even though the Treasurer may be bored, it is his responsibility to listen to the concerns that are being expressed. I hope he will take some of them to heart. I hope he absorbs the concern that



is being stated here that there is no need for the rapidly growing expenditure in the area of support administration to the detriment of other services or other responsibilities that may impede the capability of future Treasurers to meet the needs of Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** We have cut \$300 million out of that.

**Miss Stephenson:** I implore the Treasurer to consider seriously withdrawing some of that increase in administration. He can do it. He can do in-year examinations of the program activity that is going on and he can find money. We used to cut about \$290 million to \$300 million every single year. It was the right thing to do, because we discovered that some of those activities were not being pursued and it was better to ensure the money was not expended in that way. He should apply that money to the reduction of the debt servicing requirements of this province so he will not be jeopardizing the future of the generations I know he is looking forward to seeing. He is going to be a grandfather some time.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I am.

**Miss Stephenson:** But not enough times at this point. The Treasurer does not have enough grandchildren yet to make it an absolute requirement for him to look carefully at that kind of expenditure and to ensure that his grandchildren will not have to suffer as a result of it.

I hope the Treasurer has listened. I hope, in addition to listening, some of it has penetrated what from time to time appears to be a logic-tight compartment within his cerebral cavity, in order to have some sensitivity next time or during this next year while he is ensuring the budgetary activity of this province is appropriate.

I would also ask him to speak very clearly to the Chairman of Management Board to ensure that really firm rules are established related to the kinds of guidelines given to ministers regarding their personal staff, because we have seen no example of that at this point. It would be very worth while if that was to emanate from the office of the Chairman of Management Board.

Almost in closing, I would simply like to tell the Treasurer that absolutely nobody is deluded by this delightful little position he has put forward as the example of the really significant change in management of Ontario; that is, the cash requirement for next year is only what is necessary for capital expansion. If the Treasurer was being really truthful and honest, he would have stated very clearly that in examination of previous budgets for at least the last seven years in Ontario, the amount of money that has been

the cash requirement on an annual basis has been that related to the capital requirements for the building of universities, hospitals, highways, courthouses, Ministry of Government Services buildings and all of those other things for which the government of Ontario is responsible.

I agree this is an excellent plan. It is the right way to explain that if there is a cash requirement, it is for the purpose of investment in the future of the province. That is the kind of philosophy with which I agree, but to try to suggest this is a whole new development is just a little bit specious and beneath the kind of characteristics I know this Treasurer has.

At any rate, my present concern is primarily with administration. I do hope the Treasurer will reverse this most unfortunate direction the government has taken, in spite of the fact it said it was going to be extremely careful with the taxpayers' money. That is not the way to be careful. One is careful when one expends it as though it was one's own. The Treasurer must remember that. That is what he would want to do. He should make sure the rest of his cabinet colleagues feel exactly the same way. He is a very good teacher. He taught history for years in all sorts of places. He has not been able to teach Dorothy because she has been teaching him for years, but that is good. None the less, he is a good teacher. I hope he will exercise that capacity with his cabinet colleagues and all of the members of his caucus. That is one of the responsibilities of the Treasurer, which I am sure this Treasurer should be able to pursue with vigour.

**Mr. Breaugh:** I want to pay some compliments here. As you all know, the member for York Mills is one of my favourite Tories, next to the great Darcy McKeough. She shares a lot of things with Darcy McKeough, such as mental attitude, physical capacity, ability to work and to express a point of view. She expresses perhaps better than most members of her caucus a real political philosophy. I do not share any of it, but at least one can identify her as a true bona fide right winger, tough, hard as nails—

**Miss Stephenson:** I am not a right winger. I am right down the centre.

**Mr. Breaugh:** —a little cruel from time to time. My only mild criticism, and it is a faint one, is I thought she was a little wishy-washy today around the edges. I felt she took some abuse, particularly from the member for Essex South, and I always find that regrettable because it is not necessary.

**5 p.m.**



As many members of the Conservative Party have discovered, I do appreciate there are a lot of hangers-on around the ministers of the cabinet. I remember the first occasion when I met some of these people. I kept asking them, "What do you do?" I found out they came in during question period and took notes. Some observed the ministers' responses. Some read things for the ministers. A few opened the mail. Frankly, it has been my observation that has not changed a great deal. I seem to see the same type of folks hanging around these ministers that were hanging around the previous ministers. They seem to be very busy, carrying in briefcases, opening doors, seeing that the ministers know where they are at any given moment.

I agree with the member for York Mills that this is perhaps an unfortunate price to pay. I observe no real difference here except that there may be a little more openness. One can find where they are on the books these days. I do not recall being able to do that previously.

**Mr. Mancini:** That was a cheap shot.

**Mr. Ashe:** It is nice to know that the member for Christmas cards, the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), is awake and listened to the last remarks so closely. It is time to get the Christmas cards ready for the Premier (Mr. Peterson) for the coming year. The member should not forget.

**Mr. Foulds:** Is that a speech or a comment.

**Mr. Ashe:** It is a speech. Does the member want comments?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Wait a minute. I thought the member was commenting on his colleague's speech.

I just want to say to the member for York Mills, who accused me of acting bored and so on, that I did not want her to transgress the commitment made by her House leader that interim supply and the borrowing bill would be carried before 6:30 p.m. A number of members want to participate. I agree with the comments made by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh). The member for York Mills is one of my favourite Tories too. However, I wish she would not be so easy on me.

I have another correction. I taught science and I would be prepared to give the member for York Mills a little lesson in the voltaic cell any time she wants to get together. I also want to state specifically something about the costs of the Office of the Premier and the Cabinet Office. The information has been available; the member may be aware of it. The expenses of the Office of the

Premier decreased by \$700,000 over the year before.

**Miss Stephenson:** Exactly the amount that was transferred to the Cabinet Office.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As the member interjected with her explanation, she is talking about it being transferred to the Cabinet Office. In fact, all those policy secretariats that they used to move around in from time to time in the old, unlamented, late administration cost us \$2.5 million under her administration. They have disappeared. Co-ordination under the cabinet committees cost us \$1.2 million, representing a saving of \$1.3 million. It is in the Cabinet Office because those ministries have disappeared.

It is not necessary to have a lovely, brown, Oldsmobile 98 limousine with two aerials on the back for one of those. In fact, there is a whole bunch of these cars sitting in the government garage because we reduced the cabinet requirement down to about 23 or 24. That is why I am driving the member's old car. I really admire the member's choice, not only of model but of make.

**Mr. Foulds:** I would like a clarification from the previous speaker. Did I understand the member for York Mills to say that as a matter of current Tory policy, they would be in favour of purchasing a jet for government travel?

**Miss Stephenson:** I am pleased to respond. I have two minutes to do this. I suggested that the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) would probably have been delighted had the previous administration purchased a jet. That was what I said. We did not purchase a jet; it was not available. There was an agreement with the federal government that we should. That agreement was broken and the jet was sold elsewhere.

I am delighted to know the Treasurer taught science. I taught biochemistry and the physical examination of patients. I would be pleased to give the Treasurer a demonstration at any time as well.

I have tried to be as firm as I possibly can with the member for Essex north, south, east, west. It is difficult because he has one of the most voluble mouths in the House. From time to time, I cannot manage to overcome the noise level.

There is no doubt in my mind that the delightful figures suggested by the Treasurer are reasonably accurate, except that the increase in the Cabinet Office is \$3 million. I remind him that the 74 staff from the secretariats are all being employed in other ministries now. Therefore, that amount of money, \$1.2 million, has been scattered throughout a whole lot of other ministries. The Treasurer did not save anything.



He has not saved a cent except perhaps for the cars that are sitting over there. That is all.

I say to the member for Oshawa there is a very significant increase in the number of staff for each of the ministers, and that is a significant increase in dollars. That is troublesome. I agree there is no necessity for a huge range of people who do not do things, and that is why we have tried very diligently to ensure that would be ended. The previous Chairman of Management Board was bringing in a policy.

**The Acting Speaker:** The member's time is up.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** That is that.

**Miss Stephenson:** Oh, no it is not. The Treasurer is not that lucky.

**Mr. Foulds:** This motion is necessary to pay the salaries of those employed by the government and to make other necessary payments for a period of one month. We support the motion and think it should be carried. It does not need a lot of debate; we just had the budget debate. We will have estimates debate going on for a considerable time.

I want to make three quick points. The previous speaker engaged in the polite fiction that it was not the Treasurer's responsibility that costs of administration have gone up. That is a nice, neat, parliamentary thing to do if one is in an old boys' club, if members will pardon the sexist comment, such as this. However, it is not true. Whatever is in the budget and whatever is expended is the Treasurer's responsibility and he has accepted that. Therefore, the buck stops with the Treasurer when it comes to matters of the Treasury, and the polite fiction engaged in by the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) should be seen as just that.

Second, I find it offensive that the Tory party is now preaching the song of restraint and the song of constraint, particularly when it comes to administration, when for so many years its administrative, and if I may say so, its political costs escalated at such a rate, particularly during the years of William Davis, Premier, and Darcy McKeough, Treasurer. If members take a look at a graph of the expenditures in those years, and the tradition was carried until the phoney bicentennial year, they will see that in every year before there was an election, there was a jump in expenditure that was sheer patronage, political expenditure, done with the taxpayers' money. I find the crocodile tears about the taxpayers' dollars being held in trust just that.

Last, I find it offensive that both of the parties I face, the Conservative Party to my right and the

Liberal Party across the way, will still continue to expend money on things such as government advertising at an unnecessarily high rate, travel for cabinet ministers, high living—

Interjection.

**Mr. Foulds:** —yes, high living, when in this province today we use cattle prods on human beings in centres for the developmentally handicapped because we do not have the staff in those institutions to deal with those people in a humane way. I need say nothing more.

**Miss Stephenson:** May I make one comment? Not being a crocodile, I do not shed that kind of tear, but I feel strongly about this. It is the responsibility of any Treasurer to ensure that everybody understands tax dollars are held in trust. That may be a personal commitment which the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) does not appreciate, but it is there.

**5:10 p.m.**

None the less, I also suggest to the member that we should be looking very critically at whether the committees of the Legislature need to move about outside the province on as many occasions as they appear to do. This is something that has always been troublesome to me, and I have never felt it was appropriate. The Treasurer does not control that in most circumstances. It is something this Legislature should be carefully looking at, rather than asking the Treasurer to do it alone.

**Mr. Foulds:** Of course, I did not imply that the member for York Mills was a crocodile. Her tears may be crocodile-like, but there are other forms that I am sure her personality could be more appropriately described as.

I do not think the expenditure by committees of the Legislature is one of the areas where a great saving can take place, although some saving perhaps could take place. I worry more about ministerial and ministerial staff travel. I worry more, frankly, about unnecessary trips throughout the province by civil servants, who see nothing and report nothing when they come back.

I have some of the same concerns about using the taxpayers' dollars in trust, but I would say it is better to spend money wisely to avoid future costs than it is to restrain spending unnecessarily. The former administration restrained spending in areas such as education, health care and developmentally handicapped centres in the Ministry of Community and Social Services, where it actually affected the service that we as a society had made commitments to deliver to the people of



Ontario. It is unfortunate that this Treasurer has not seen well enough to expand in those areas as much as he should have.

**Mr. Ashe:** It is a pleasure to be able to participate in this debate giving supply to the Treasurer to pay the bills. We all agree the bills have to be paid.

What I have already heard from the member for York Mills and, frankly, even from the member for Port Arthur and others is the general concurrence in that. But what we all have concern about, what I personally have great concern about and what the Treasurer has concern about deep down in his chest, where there is a heart—no, that is slipping a little—is the level of the expenditures.

The \$2.4 billion that is estimated by the Treasurer to be the amount needed to pay the bills for a month is not untoward in the breakdown of the annual expenditures. As a matter of fact, it is about one twelfth of last year's on a monthly basis, which is probably a little more realistic figure than the figure for expenditures this year.

I am offended personally—and I think most of the people on this side, at least at this end of this side, are offended, and again I have to include the Speaker—by the percentage of increase this year in the expenditures. One might ask, how does that relate to supply? The reason it relates is that if less money were being spent, the Treasurer would need less money to pay his bills for a month.

When one looks at the Treasurer's figures, the projections that were contained in his recently filed budget, one finds there is a 7.4 per cent increase in expenditures. That is from the estimated actuals last year. When one looks at the budget figures for last year, his growth in expenditures is approximately 8.6 per cent.

An awful lot of this increase, the additional expenditures in last year's budget, which no doubt were offset by increased revenues—though that does not in itself justify the expenditure; it should have meant just a significantly lower deficit position for the year—an increase of 8.6 per cent occurs at a time when the Treasurer himself projects an inflation rate of 3.8 per cent. Even if we take the actual projected revenue growth from the estimated actual to 7.4 per cent, that is nearly twice the rate of inflation. When we compare it to last year's estimates, it is considerably in excess of twice the rate of inflation.

When has that happened before? We will have to look back an awfully long way to get into those kinds of percentages. How many families in this province can increase their total expenditures by

better than twice the rate of inflation? That is unconscionable.

The public interest debt is growing rapidly and is up to 11.4 per cent. One can say that is less than a half-point increase from last year. That is true, but look at the increased dollars involved in the growth. Did the Treasurer take advantage of the opportunity in the great, booming economy we have, thanks to the policies of the previous government, the general economic conditions in the world, the economy and our major trading partner to the south? Sure, those are all factors. This government cannot take credit for that in the least.

Did he take advantage of that opportunity to make his expenditure projections for this fiscal year more realistic and reasonable and look ahead to a rainy day when it may be a little tougher? I cannot imagine what that Treasurer would have done with the pressures of his colleagues around him if he had been in that position three or four years ago when the economy was tough. There was actually negative growth. Unemployment was high. I am sure he would have committed hara-kiri. He would not have been able to operate at all, because I know that deep down he does have a heart and feels for the taxpayers of this province.

It must really bother him that his colleagues, I would suggest probably in most cases his colleague to the left and the colleague to his right, who seem to operate the whole place, came down on him and said, "We do not care, Mr. Treasurer, that you have been generally known as a tight-fisted penny-pincher." That is probably why he was made Treasurer, or was he made Treasurer because the Premier and his colleagues in cabinet knew they could coerce him into spending money that he and the taxpayers did not want to spend? I am not sure of the answer to that. I leave it up to the conscience of the Treasurer to speak to that one.

My colleague the member for York Mills made some specific references to expenditure growth. I am not going into detail on a ministry-by-ministry basis because she touched on them in a very effective and fiscally responsible way, but I want to touch specifically on one she talked about.

There is no way the Treasurer can sweep under the carpet the \$2.8-million growth in the expenditures of the Cabinet Office. It is true that I am rolling in the reduction in the expenditures in the Office of the Premier. That is quite legitimate. Therefore, it is down to \$2.1 million. If we look at where the people from the various



secretariats came before, we will find a huge majority of them have been rolled into ministry budgets and that they do not account for a significant part of the total \$2.1 million net increase in the Cabinet Office.

Is that unique? Not really. It pertains to everybody over here, including the member for Port Arthur, and I think there was even an indirect reference by the member for Oshawa on the growth in the size of the staff.

**5:20 p.m.**

I have been here only approximately nine years, but I can remember for at least eight years, the Treasurer standing up three, four or five, I do not know how many times a year, and critiquing the government minister who was bringing something forward, the Premier or a parliamentary assistant if he was carrying a bill, on the basis of those big, chauffeur-driven limousines and all the parliamentary assistants and extra grandiose dollars that were paid out. Did that Treasurer really mean that? Obviously he did not.

I can remember his speaking about all the drones—I think he may have used the word from time to time—who followed behind the minister to carry his bag to his chauffeur-driven limousine and open the doors. Did he really mean that? Again, he did not.

If there is one point being made here today by my colleague the member for York Mills and others that I hope this Treasurer will take to heart, it is that he should really sit down with his colleague the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) and look at the growth of administration and the numbers and costs within the ministers' offices.

I am afraid to look at what the parliamentary assistants must have. If it is anything in proportion to the ministers, some of them are probably spending as many dollars as some ministers in previous administrations used to spend on support staff. It is out and out disgusting. Just because we as a country have barely lived through the Trudeau spending years of a decade and a half, which took us into the deficit position this country is in, surely that is not an indication of what the Liberal Party generally stands for. It has been the case of what the Liberal Party of Ontario stands for, at least in approximately the past year.

They are going the same route: "Whatever it is, throw some money at it. Whatever it is, surround yourself with a lot of high-paid staff, whether or not they are qualified, and all the problems will go away." That disgusts me, and

when the record becomes known over the next year or whatever, the taxpayers of Ontario will be disgusted as well and will show that.

In all sincerity, I think the Treasurer is equally concerned. Maybe we can let the Chairman of Management Board off the hook a little. She is new. She really did not know anything about the job, the operation, what people had in the way of staff size or what they were paid. She was told: "That is the way you go. You send somebody up to Ottawa and see what they pay them up there. You come back here, add some percentage to it, go out and hire all these people, whether they are qualified or not, and all the problems will go away."

Let me tell her that is not the way it runs. If she was honest and realistic and looked at—

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** She is honest.

**Mr. Ashe:** I do not mean that in the sense of dishonest; I mean in the looking within. I am sure she is not dishonest in the sense she may have taken it. If she did, I apologize. It was not meant in that spirit. However, it is not directly honest somehow to make those concerns go away; it is disgusting.

Look at the number of people and the extra money that is being spent. Let the Treasurer think back over the years. If I had wanted to waste my own or a researcher's time, I could have dug out page after page in Hansard over the past decade where he was after one minister or another, the Premier or the parliamentary assistant on the costs of running the operation. I think there are better uses for my time and their time, so I did not do that. I mean that in all sincerity. I do not see any fewer cars out there and I do not see any fewer drivers. There sure is a lot more staff, and they are being paid a lot more money. There probably is not more than two per cent of the caucus over there which is not on some form of extra remuneration.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Have the members heard this speech before?

**Mr. Ashe:** I think the minister has heard it before because he gave it. It is like looking in the mirror, and I appreciate that.

There are two other areas that bother me and that call upon the approximately \$2.4 billion we are being asked to approve today. This goes back to the budget itself. If one looks at the total budget, the actual deficit for the year is something closer to \$2.5 billion. About \$1 billion is borrowed, absconded or whatever from within in an account sense, taken away from this account and reserve accounts. That created \$1 billion. The traditional way of looking at the



deficit is how much borrowing has to be done. That was reduced by a modest—to use that word is being generous—amount from \$85 million to about \$1.5 billion. They can not have it both ways.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Neither can the member.

**Mr. Ashe:** They did not want to count that extraordinary expenditure last year when they talked about the growth in the deficit.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** How come the member was counting it last year?

**Mr. Ashe:** If he can take it both ways, so can I.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There you are.

**Mr. Ashe:** Again, it is like looking in the mirror. The deficit is about \$1.5 billion. In how many years in the last decade, including many tough years, did the operating account operate in a deficit position, particularly in the order of \$300 million? In very few, even in the tough years. That is not considering the capital expenditures, which are for the future of this province. Nobody can deny that. The way we have our accounting system one has to look upon that as an investment in the future. The \$300 million of that is not. It is current funds in a time of a buoyant, growing economy.

One of the last items I am sure the Treasurer will be happy to report in his quarterly, his semi-annual and in his third-quarter reports is that quite unexpectedly the revenues of the province are substantially higher than he estimated. We know darn well that will be the case because he estimated the lowest among all of the experts—the banking experts, economic council and so on—a growth of 4.2 per cent. We know it is more likely to be closer to five per cent, give or take a fraction of a point.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The experts are all people you hired.

**Mr. Ashe:** I am glad to know we hired the heads of the Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Toronto Dominion Bank, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Dominion Bank of Canada, etc., because those are whom I am talking about in the comparison.

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** The Treasury experts, those budget wizards.

**Mr. Ashe:** We do not know for sure that 4.2 per cent was the actual final number of the Treasury experts, so we have to leave that in abeyance.

I suppose one of the last things that is causing the numbers to go up is the growth in the public service. Unfortunately, the growth in the size of

the minister's office does not even show in this. The previous government was concerned, particularly when it saw what was going on in Ottawa with the growth of the public service, and over a decade it very consciously and conscientiously reduced the size of the public service by something of the order of six per cent, about 5,000 people.

What happened? In two budgets in less than a year, the Treasurer is projecting a growth of about 1,500 people; about 30 per cent of the 5,000 have come on stream. Before this decade is out, if Ontario is so unfortunate as to have this government still in office, I suggest that not only will we have regained the 5,000 that were trimmed over the years, but there will be another 5,000 on top of that.

Time marches on and there is no doubt we want to give the Treasurer the right to pay the bills during the month of June, as I know he will in a very judicious way. It is too bad that some of those dollars are not going where they should, because a dollar saved would be a dollar earned to reduce that deficit from the \$1.5 billion to the \$750 million that should be quite reasonably attainable for that Treasurer with this philosophy.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I want to comment on the member's remarks if I may. I must agree with his concern about the 7.4 per cent rate of increase of the expenditure. At the same time, he must understand that our revenues in the same period increased by 8.2 per cent, so we are well below that. I acknowledge his comments in that regard. We are concerned at that rate of increase. However, the member must understand that new programs have been a part of the initiatives taken by the government of Ontario. The member and his colleagues have been urging us to undertake even more new programs and additional expenditures. We have had to make a judicious and, I hope, careful judgement in this connection. That is the basis of the budget and the expenditures we will be undertaking this month.

**5:30 p.m.**

He referred to the growth in the public service. We are watching those figures carefully. As a former Chairman of Management Board, the member will know just the sorts of discussions that take place there early in the morning. It is a great pleasure to work under the chairmanship of the Chairman of Management Board, who is here today. We have very interesting discussions indeed.

The principal growth in the public service was as a result of the requirements from federal



legislation under the Young Offenders Act. The member is aware of that. It started when he was in office and it is continuing now, and the end is not yet.

**Mr. McCague:** I wish to participate in the debate.

**Mr. Ashe:** I have had no response.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I asked for comments or questions and then I called on the Treasurer for his windup remarks. If that was meant for the two minutes, okay.

**Mr. Ashe:** I think it was quite understood and I think even the Treasurer would acknowledge that he was responding, taking the two-minute opportunity. In fact, I have the right to respond to that, but I have no further comments.

**Mr. McCague:** I am pleased to participate in this debate and have another opportunity today to talk to the Treasurer. Like all those others who have spoken, I have no particular problem with the motion but just a problem or two with the origin of the motion, which really is the budget.

I have said in my local press, and I believe it to be true, that this is a very artfully written document. Also there are some very artful quotes from the Treasurer and member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) of previous years. I think I could relate those to some of the things that are in his budget.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Your colleague said that researching old Hansards was a waste of time, and I agree with him.

**Mr. McCague:** It is in most cases but not in the Treasurer's case; it makes very interesting reading. The Treasurer will recall in talking of the Honourable James N. Allan, that he said of Mr. Allan during his years as Treasurer: "I always felt he did not have to stretch, strain and twist himself grotesquely to put a good face on the business management of the government. He simply spoke to all of us more or less as fellow members of the board and tried to discuss actual business substance of the province without the blather that has come to be part of the budgetary statement of the present Treasurer and his immediate predecessors going back two." That is what he said about the Honourable James N. Allan.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I was complimenting the member.

**Mr. McCague:** Yes, when one talks about blather, that comes through very clearly. When it comes to blather, I do not think the Treasurer needs to take any back seat in that regard.

The one thing that disturbs me about his budget more than anything else is the section on health. In practically every section of the budget that one comes to, he mentions the spending of some money at least in the current year. On the health item, he does not talk about spending money in the current year, with the small exception of some for dental care.

I have great difficulty, as do the people in my riding who are interested in health care, in determining what the Treasurer really intends to spend in the coming years on health care. I have it right here. I have listened very carefully to the Treasurer's well-chosen words during question period when he is asked about this year's program, next year's program and the program the year after. In each case, he said, "We are going to honour all our commitments." There is \$168 million in capital there this year. There will be money next year and the year after, but is this \$850 million in addition to a flat-lined \$168 million per year? In fairness, the Treasurer has not answered that question, that I am aware of, at any point in the discussions we have had to date.

I am wondering whether he does not intend, as he has said he will do, to honour the commitments out there and then, when they are honoured, this \$850 million will kick in at approximately the rate he has in capital right now, which is not the \$850-million program everybody grabbed on to and was very happy about.

When I say this was artfully written, I mean it was artfully written. I may withdraw that a little bit if he will clarify for me what he actually wants to do. I go back to something that has been mentioned to the Treasurer several times when he has talked about the Conference Board of Canada. He has talked about the Conference Board of Canada and the various other prognosticators. The fellows who sit around the gas stove at Earl's Shell have been right at least as often as the other groups in their view of the economic future. I am not sure why the Treasurer got rid of his own economic policy advisory group and is now taking the advice of these two groups. He might as well have kept the other one.

He made a few comments about double dipping. He said: "I do not believe double dipping should be permitted at this time or any other time at any level of the government. It would electrify this province if someone on the Treasury benches would say he agrees with this concept." I have not seen any debate where the Treasurer has followed through on that very profound statement he made a few years ago.



One of the problems the Treasurer will be faced with in the not-too-distant future is the place of agriculture in our economy. I acknowledge the Treasurer has done well. He has increased the budget for agriculture, but he is just getting the bottom of the barrel covered.

**Mr. Speaker:** I hate to interrupt the member. I hope you can tie that into the motion.

**Mr. McCague:** Yes, I can do that quite conveniently. The Treasurer is asking for money. He has not told us everything for which the money will be spent, and I hope none of it will be spent for double dipping. That was the point I wanted to make. Does that seem appropriate?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** What do you have against Russ Ramsay?

**Mr. McCague:** I have nothing against Russ Ramsay, Mr. MacDonald, Julian Reed or any of those people. I have nothing against them. I wanted to recall the things the Treasurer would probably not want to be accused of doing himself. He has changed.

I was going to go on and talk a little bit about farming. I presume there is some agricultural money in this. I was going to tell the Treasurer what he said. He wanted to make a point that was a local one but it extends into southwestern Ontario. He said: "The economic plight of farmers is a serious matter indeed. I happen to be a working farmer myself. The fact that I drive a tractor more than I run a pitchfork probably has something to do with certain problems that members have noticed."

I never want to accuse the Treasurer of anything but I wonder whether he is driving the tractor a little less and running the pitchfork a bit more. I am not sure, but there have been indications of that in the past few days.

**5:40 p.m.**

The problem the Treasurer is going to have in agriculture is probably that other provinces and the United States are subsidizing agricultural products to a much greater extent than we are. The Treasurer acknowledges that our level of subsidization in this province is not as high as it is in those other places. Therefore, I fail to see how he can buoy up the agricultural industry in this province and at the same time hope it will sell in other parts of Canada and export.

It is interesting to hear how the Treasurer complains. I remind him that he said: "The tobacco industry is the biggest farm industry in the province by a considerable amount, that is, returning dollars to the producers and to the economy. Since the tax was imposed, they have

found that their revenues have gone down." I know the Treasurer is an outstanding constituency member and takes into consideration everything that his constituents say. I wonder why he thought it was necessary to increase the tax on tobacco after having told us in the very recent past that the revenues of tobacco farmers have gone down because of the taxes imposed by his government.

This is another small quote from the Treasurer: "It is very difficult to shake these old dinosaurs out of their comfortable situation. They like the big offices, they like the big cars and they like to be able to move and shake." My only question on that is one not really related to the budget. When he talked about old dinosaurs, he was talking about a member who has not been around here as long as the Treasurer has. I wonder where the Treasurer fits into the scheme of things. He made that comment about Jim Snow when he did not build Highway 403. How is it coming? The Treasurer will answer me in a moment.

I know he understands the problems we may have in agriculture as a result of subsidization in other parts of Canada and in the US. I compliment him for such things as his employee share ownership plan and the \$15,000 loan available in the new ventures program. However, I need to have some clarification of the health item. As members of this Legislature, we deserve that. We have no problem with the Treasurer's motion today, but there is a problem in agriculture and particularly in clarification of that health matter.

**Mr. Hon. Nixon:** It might be best if I use the 90 seconds or whatever to respond following the honourable member's speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** Two minutes.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member's reference to the statement in the budget that we will provide \$850 million for a major multi-year hospital capital expansion is much appreciated. In my view, this was the most important initiative in the budget. It is designed to give hospital boards a chance to plan for expansion, renovation and new facilities. However, I can assure the member that we have not subsumed in that amount all the commitments previously made. There are commitments made by the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) before this announcement and those would be associated with it, but essentially separate.

The honourable member has looked at the table and found \$168 million in capital funds, which is not out of the way in size. I can assure him that as we make capital commitments,



particularly for the renewal of cancer treatment facilities, this capital amount is liable, and I predict almost sure, to go far above that figure of \$168 million during the next five years. In the third year particularly, as the plans mature and the construction and the real costs are actually undertaken, those capital commitments and the payouts will be much larger than the \$168 million allocated for this year.

I have half a minute. Referring to the farm situation, we have indicated an increase in the farm allocation in the budget. In the 11 months we have been in office, we can point to a 39 per cent increase in the allocation of those dollars. Obviously, this does not cure the recession in the farm industry, and we are going to keep concentrating on assisting in any way we possibly can.

**Mr. Shymko:** I would like to join in some of the concerns of my colleague the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague) and reiterate the statement that \$2.5 billion of windfall money is coming into the Treasurer's office.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Culture has declared a serious concern in an area of fair and equitable distribution of some of the budget allocations. I am concerned that the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship has had its budget cut from \$323,000 last year to \$252,000. I also understand that classified salaries of about \$70,000, which would have gone to hire an executive co-ordinator and a researcher, were used to redecorate the deputy minister's office after the new government came in. These are serious concerns when we are talking about the salaries of people. I compliment the minister for some of the concerns in terms of the delivery of services—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the member. He is aware this is a two-minute period to comment on the comments by the member for Dufferin-Simcoe.

**Mr. Shymko:** I believe I have 53 seconds left.

**Miss Stephenson:** The member was not commenting; he was participating.

**Mr. Shymko:** I am commenting on some of the concerns raised by the honourable member, in that there should be some equity in other councils.

I understand the budget of the 13-member Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs is \$397,000, an increase from \$379,000 last year. That compares with the 56-member Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship, whose budget has been slashed to

\$252,000. These are concerns I would like to point out to the Treasurer to be looked into as he allocates the moneys to expensive ministries.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired. The member for Dufferin-Simcoe has up to two minutes to respond.

**Mr. McCague:** I am faced with the same problem from the Treasurer. I do not know whether to accuse him of choosing his words so carefully that nobody can figure out what he means. I am not sure what to do, but he talks about a planning period. There have been all kinds of planning. There have been five-year plans. A five-year planning period has been the rule at practically every hospital for years. I think I heard him say he was not going to honour all the commitments of the previous government.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Yes.

**Mr. McCague:** Is he going to?

**Miss Stephenson:** No. He said there were some the minister had.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** This is hardly the time to go over those one by one.

**Mr. McCague:** That is what is worrying me. We will never get to that time, because we cannot get to it in question period.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There are the Ministry of Health estimates.

**Mr. McCague:** That is true. We will not have the Treasurer there, though.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I will be glad to attend.

**Mr. McCague:** As is his custom.

However, he is obviously going to pay for the projects that are under way. The projects that are not under way are under review. We all know that. It is still not clear how much money he is actually putting into the health care system. Some members over here feel he is not going to put any more money into the health care capital than has been the case for several years.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** O ye of little faith.

**Mr. McCague:** I can be accused of having little faith. I would like a little fact. That is what the Treasurer is a little short in himself.

**Mr. Treleaven:** I am glad the Treasurer is here. Being the member for the other part, the remainder of Oxford county, he will be particularly interested in my comments, with his fourth or fifth hat as member for the county. Mr. Speaker, as you admonished my friend the member for Dufferin-Simcoe, I will stay on the motion.

**Mr. McCague:** So did I.



**5:50 p.m.**

**Mr. Treleaven:** Certainly. However, my comments will have some relevance to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. I will not be running the clock until 6:30 p.m. However, I will be making some comments. Were it up to me, this would be another good opportunity to vent certain things. Antagonized enough, I would run it to 6:30 and much beyond for my own purposes, but I will not. There will be other opportunities for me to deal with that.

We are dealing today with a motion by the Treasurer: "That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply...such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation...." Just a moment ago, when my friend the member for Dufferin-Simcoe was winding up, he mentioned and the Treasurer interjected about honouring the undertakings of the previous government.

Let us look at the 50 beds in Oxford county. I do wish the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) were here because they are the objects of my attention these days and will become succeeding more so. The Treasurer knows things will get more painful. I am sure he will relay my comments—on topic, of course, but maybe rambling a bit—in Hansard to those two ministers.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I heard the House was coming to a standstill.

**Mr. Treleaven:** No, there is no standstill.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I read that in the Oxford Times.

**Mr. Treleaven:** It is called "ratcheting." The bills of the two ministries, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, will come to a standstill ultimately.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Treleaven:** You are admonishing me.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the member has previously heard the Speaker say that interjections are out of order. Members should disregard the interjections and speak to the motion.

**Mr. Treleaven:** I will disregard the interjections. We are going to talk about the undertakings of the previous government and honouring those. May I refer to a letter from the Minister of Health who states—this is just an excerpt, Mr. Speaker; I would not think of reading wholesale from any document—"193 beds to the Thames Valley area were announced by the previous government with no mention of keeping these

beds separate from Community and Social Services extended care beds."

Apropos of that and what the Treasurer just said, I would like to refer to a news release of a previous Minister of Health, the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope): "More than 600 new nursing home beds being announced for south-western Ontario." On the third page are the words, "The additional beds announced today include only extended care beds in facilities under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health, not those in homes for the aged, which come under the Ministry of Community and Social Services."

That is an undertaking of the previous government. The Treasurer's friend, the Minister of Health, comes along and says there was not an undertaking. What are we to think? One minister states that the undertakings will be honoured and another denies it.

On the question of these 50 beds, 50 extra nursing home beds which have been promised, Mr. Speaker, you would be unfamiliar with the area, but I am speaking of Tavistock, Ontario, where 41 per cent of the Oxford nursing home beds are located, the majority being filled by residents of Perth county, Waterloo county and the riding of the Minister of Community and Social Services. These are the 50 nursing home beds I am talking about, which the government has reneged upon.

The Treasurer is now asking for salaries to pay civil servants. I am sure the civil servants to whom he is referring are the nurses, nursing attendants and so on for these 50 nursing home beds.

I do not want to stray too far. At other times on other bills there will be time to get into these details more explicitly. In his motion, the Treasurer is referring to paying the salaries of civil servants. Perhaps he is referring to the civil servants of the Thames Valley District Health Council. I am sure you, Mr. Speaker, are familiar with the move to bring the county of Perth into the Thames Valley District Health Council as the fourth county.

Far be it from me to give advice to a member of an adjoining riding, but I suggest from the experience of Oxford that would be a step backwards for any other county to do so. Although I understand Perth is not connected with a health council, in the last number of years it has probably gained more and perhaps progressed more than Oxford in the health field without being connected with a health council. It could not have progressed any slower.



Perhaps the Treasurer is asking for authorization to pay the salaries of the bureaucrats at the Thames Valley District Health Council, who in an 1982-83 report listed among their accomplishments—accomplishments, note that—that they had prepared a proposal to undertake a study of the needs.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** At one time, you used to like the bureaucrats.

**Mr. Treleaven:** Bureaucrats? That is the height of bureaucratise, as my friend the Minister of the Environment has interjected.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Good people, bureaucrats.

**Mr. Treleaven:** I will pay no attention to the interjections. I have never had any time for bureaucrats who procrastinate and people of that ilk who would list as an accomplishment in an annual report that they have prepared a proposal to undertake a study of the needs. Anybody who has been a lawyer or any type of businessman, who believed in giving service—

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** A lawyer?

**Mr. Treleaven:** I do not want to rise to the interjections of the member for St. Catharines. I would end up saying something disparaging about teachers. I am married to one and that would get me into trouble at home.

**Mr. Breagh:** Go ahead. Put it on the record and take your abuse like a man.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** You would insult most of the NDP caucus.

**Mr. Treleaven:** No, I will not. The member for St. Catharines has taken my mind away from what I was saying. I believe I was referring to the Thames Valley District Health Council.

**Mr. Swart:** Who appointed these health councils anyway?

**Mr. Treleaven:** I was not here when the health councils were appointed. Whoever did it had a bad idea, from my perspective. From the perspective of Oxford—I have experience with only one health council—if they lined up all four levels of bureaucracy, gave them two weeks' notice and heaved them out the door, Oxford would be much better off.

Interjections.

**Mr. Treleaven:** To my mind, the Thames Valley District Health Council has never really been that; it has been the London health council and it continues to be the London health council. They do not accept Oxford people into Middlesex and London facilities. This Treasurer wants money to pay civil servants in London and

Middlesex who deny the residents of Oxford the ability even to put in applications for the facilities in London and Middlesex county.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Oh, we have got him going now.

**Mr. Treleaven:** No. I promised myself I would not get rolling.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** You sound like a square wheel to me.

**Mr. Treleaven:** No. I will stay nice and calm. I will not get rolling today.

**Hon. Mr. Ruprecht:** We know why.

**Mr. Treleaven:** The interjection down there from Toronto really cannot be relevant. He has probably never been west of Roncesvalles, so he could not really know what the Thames Valley District Health Council is like.

6 p.m.

When we speak of the Treasurer asking for these funds to be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants for the children's mental health service in Oxford, it does not exist. Oxford is the only county in southwestern and southern Ontario, in fact, that has no children's mental health funding. Those are the civil servants that are to be paid by the Treasurer.

It is interesting. One looks at expenditures by municipalities for the fiscal year ending March 1984. When one looks down the list under the Ministry of Community and Social Services, its expenditures under children's services for children's mental health, and that includes speech therapy, one sees there are no funds. Incidentally, in Oxford, the number receiving speech therapy is 29 and the waiting list is 28. The waiting list is up to a year; but can the overflow from Oxford go to Middlesex or London? No, it cannot. They have to pay privately. There are no funds for Oxford people, children, preschoolers, etc., to go to the other jurisdictions within the Thames Valley District Health Council. They have to pay privately. They have to pay \$22.50 an hour. The government is not paying out of the Treasurer's money. Why is it not going to help out the residents of Oxford?

When we look at the expenditures by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in the year 1984, when we look at the expenditures in municipal units, the list is all the way down. We have the central region, Barrie, Mississauga, Toronto; the southwestern region, which includes the Hamilton area; and the London area, which is Elgin, Haldimand-Norfolk, Huron, Middlesex, London, Oxford and Perth.



Then we look at the Waterloo area and the Windsor area. When we get through all of southern Ontario, however many millions of people there are, and we look across under institutions, money expended for institutions for children and youth and children's mental health, lo and behold, the only jurisdiction, the only county with nothing but dots under those two is Oxford. Under there previously had been Perth, but it has \$240,000 given in 1985, the following year. At the point when this annual return came out, Perth and Oxford were the only two jurisdictions in southern Ontario that had no money in children's mental health from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** I guess the member did not have much influence.

**Mr. Treleaven:** Yes, it could be that. Therefore, as a member for Oxford, I have found a new path. Being a nice guy perhaps did not get any figures in the column.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The member had to be nicer.

**Mr. Treleaven:** No. Nice guys do not finish first around here. Therefore, we take a little different tack.

It is surprising that Oxford is the only jurisdiction that has no money put into it. The same bureaucrats that have allowed this to happen are the people the Treasurer wants to pay. He wants money for them, believe it or not. They must assume that the people of Oxford are in some way different to everyone else in southern Ontario. They must assume that children's mental health, speech therapy and on and on, there being a different breed in Oxford, do not need to be funded. They do not need any of that money for which the Treasurer is now seeking authority.

Since they have had some studies, they are doing the usual bureaucratic thing. They are submitting the reports they have, expensive reports from the hospitals and family and children's services of Oxford. They are going to deal with it by committee. They have a joint committee of bureaucrats. Let us see what is it called in the motion. These same civil servants have a joint committee of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health where they kick things around. They made one of these decisions. What is that decision again? They are preparing a proposal to undertake a study of the needs.

The committee has met and has decided to refer this matter back to the Ministry of Community and Social Services in London and

the Thames Valley District Health Council. When all four layers of civil servants at the Thames Valley District Health Council get through with it, they will submit studies and reports back to the joint committee of Community and Social Services and Health here in Toronto. Will they at that point authorize it? No. The same civil servants will then be in a better position to discuss it. Really, they told the people in Oxford that when all these steps have gone through, they will contact the officials in Woodstock and Oxford county and they will be in a position to consider it.

I do not want to go on; I want to watch my time here. However, in regard to children's mental health, the children's mental health unit in St. Thomas, again made up of bureaucrats, wrote a letter supporting the children's mental health progress, shall we say, in Oxford. Among many other things, they said they could not supply services. They come into Tillsonburg. Money is expended down there. These are civil servants. Money is expended out of St. Thomas to come up into Tillsonburg and the surrounding areas of Norfolk, Elgin and Oxford counties, but they say they come up there and supply that because there is no service in that area. They come when they can, but they state and admit they do not have the services to do it. A lot of people apply and have to be turned down; they cannot be served. A lot of them simply go away. They strongly support children's mental health. They are stating they cannot fulfil the needs.

They do want this. Money is being spent there, but it is not being spent properly. The best use is not being made of these civil servants whom the Treasurer wishes to pay. I promised I would finish at 6:10 p.m. I am sure I will have another opportunity soon.

**Mr. McClellan:** No.

**Mr. Treleaven:** I certainly will have another opportunity soon. It will not be as thrilling, exciting and spine-tingling as my presentation today. It will be a little more pedestrian, but I am not working on my large files of notes here. I am only working on my anger files. These are my angry files. I have prepared for subsequent health and—

**Mr. Speaker:** For this motion, I hope.  
6:10 p.m.

**Mr. Treleaven:** Yes. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I am glad you brought me back to this. These other files do not deal with civil servants' salaries directly, although they refer very much to the bureaucracy and the civil servants who



perhaps should be lined up and shot. There may be some hundreds or thousands of them here in Toronto. It would really do a lot of good for various parts of Ontario if one could simply clean house and get back to a business basis where needs out there in the real world are met and money is expended properly, paying bureaucrats to do proper jobs.

I will leave it at that and continue on another day.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I know the honourable member's strong feelings about medical and special services for children in the county of Oxford. I share his concerns and I have asked for additional information, which I will share with him as soon as it is available. I hope anything that is seen to be and that actually proves to be an inadequate and unfair distribution of funds for these special facilities will be corrected.

**Mr. Harris:** Could the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven) make clear his position on the Toronto civil service attitude towards Oxford county? I am not sure I understand where he stood on that matter.

**Mr. Breagh:** I listened somewhat attentively to the member's comments. I would make a plea that he go away and come back on another day and do this in a coherent manner, so that we might be able to figure out in one of our official languages just exactly what it was he was trying to say.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there any reply from the member for Oxford? Up to two minutes.

**Mr. Treleaven:** It is a very short one. I did speak on this briefly at the concurrences on February 12.

**Mr. McClellan:** Yes, we heard you then, too, and we still do not know what you were talking about.

**Mr. Treleaven:** Yes. That was entirely incoherent. Today was only semi-incoherent. My problem is that when I get into these subjects, I tend to get wrought—overwrought at some times.

**Mr. Breagh:** How about rotten?

**Mr. Treleaven:** "Wrought," not "rot," for the member for Oshawa.

I do promise at the next opportunity I have, on the next Ministry of Health or Ministry of Community and Social Services bill, I will be much better organized. It will be much more logical. It will be duller, mind you, much duller.

**Mr. McClellan:** We want to know what it is you are trying to say.

**Mr. Treleaven:** I will expand further in the future.

Motion agreed to.

## ONTARIO LOAN ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved second reading of Bill 40, An Act to authorize the Raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The 1986 Ontario Loan Act will provide the government with the borrowing authority necessary to meet the financing requirements forecast in the 1986 budget. In addition, borrowing authority will be sought for the period from April to September 1987. The estimated borrowing requirement for these purposes is \$1.7 billion. Any unused authority will lapse on September 30, 1987, as was recommended by the appropriate committee.

The authority requested is less than that provided in any loan act since 1979. As outlined in the budget, the government intends to borrow from three sources, the Canada pension plan, the teachers' superannuation fund and the public capital markets, by continuing the Treasury bill tenders at current levels.

The budgeted net cash requirement for 1986-87 is \$1,544,000,000. Also during that year, loans of approximately \$349 million will mature and be refinanced. There will be no material change in liquid reserve levels.

The authority sought will be sufficient to allow Ontario Hydro to borrow funds surplus to Ontario's needs from the Canada pension plan fund if it is beneficial to do so.

In accordance with the procedure recommended by the standing committee on public accounts in 1978, borrowing authority is being requested to permit the borrowing of amounts offered by the Canada pension plan and the teachers' superannuation fund for the period to September 30, 1987.

**Mr. Harris:** I was not going to speak on this bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry, are there any comments? Is this comments or your regular speech?

**Mr. Harris:** Let us go right into my regular speech just in case I go beyond two minutes. I was not going to speak on Bill 40 until I heard the Treasurer make his comments. I believe I would be remiss if I did not comment on his statement that the borrowing is the least amount in the last one, two or three years in the bill.

I think it is absolutely disgraceful that there is any borrowing required at a time when we are



looking at windfall profits coming into the Treasury of some \$2.5 billion; at a time when there is a surplus from last year of approximately \$380 million. When that is rolled into the base, that is another \$380 million. The amount of money is staggering when we look at the forecast for growth or the lowest projection of any of the estimates of any of the major financial institutions, which could lead to up to another \$800 million. It is at a time when inflation is running at 3.8 per cent and the increased spending of this government is running at 7.6 per cent, pretty much double the rate of inflation.

We are not here to impede the government's ability to carry out this raid on the people of Ontario because there are other forums and there are budgets and there are other mechanisms for doing that, but we understand that in order to carry out this raid on the people of Ontario moneys have to be raised.

While I do not believe this is the forum for me officially to oppose the borrowing, I want to be on record as saying I cannot understand why this year there should be any deficit or any borrowing necessary. I feel strongly that in this year when the good times are rolling and the money is coming in, we should be able to reduce the deficit by more than the peanuts the Treasurer is talking about reducing it, \$80 million or \$85 million.

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** I think \$600 million is a lot of money.

**Mr. Harris:** We are reducing it by \$85 million on a \$1.5 billion or \$1.6 billion deficit, and it is disgraceful. The people of this province will regret this day and they will regret this budget when times get tougher and our capacity to respond to them gets tougher. They will regret the fattening of all the budgets across the board. They will regret the increased hiring in the civil service across the board, at a time I might add when the private sector has been expanding and the private sector is growing. Now is not the time for the public sector to be growing as well. Surely now is the time when we should be planning for the future and we should be planning for times ahead that may not be quite as rosy as we are facing at this time in Ontario.

My colleagues are telling me my time is almost up. I understand that and I did not plan to speak today, but I want to say to the Treasurer it bothers me that we are borrowing this kind of money at this time in our history.

**Mr. Speaker:** Any comments or questions for the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris)? Do any other members wish to speak?

**Mr. Ashe:** Briefly, I want to second the comments of my honourable colleague.

**6:20 p.m.**

**Mr. Foulds:** I rise in support of Bill 40. I note that the net cash requirements as a percentage of the gross provincial product are the lowest in five years. I note also that the gross provincial product has increased by 50 per cent over the last five years and that this is not an outrageous amount of borrowing that is required.

Unlike the present government and the present official opposition, I am able to say what we have said all along. As long as the deficit, the net cash requirements, the gross provincial product and the overall spending of the budget are in balance, there is no great cause for alarm. We do not get obsessed with a fetish about having to borrow. A lot of the money we borrow goes into what the private sector would call an asset.

In our case, it goes into schools, hospitals and institutions all over the province. We require the capital for them. They serve our citizens, and borrowing to build those is not necessarily a bad thing. I have harsher things to say about the net cash requirements for Ontario Hydro, because I think its way of financing is absolutely silly. However, we support this bill. Thank you for allowing me these few remarks.

**Miss Stephenson:** Our party will support Bill 40, primarily because the pattern which is laid out in it is what was established by the previous government in the direction of confining borrowing to the funds made available through the teachers' superannuation and Canada pension plans. That has been a pattern that has been considered appropriate for several years in this province and it is one we think it is appropriate to continue to follow.

The concern which has been expressed by my colleagues that this is one of the years when perhaps we did not need to borrow at all is one I have clearly stated in my discussion of the previous motion. I will not express that concern again at this moment. However, this is a reasonable bill which the official opposition will be pleased to support. We hope the Treasurer will find the strength to persuade his colleagues that he does not need to borrow to the limit of the amount that this bill permits in this year and that he will be providing additional moneys to repay certain of the consolidated debt to ensure there is a decrease in the cash requirement and to provide some relief for taxpayers in the province in the future.

**Mr. Foulds:** I support the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson). Unlike the present



government, which used to oppose borrowing by the Ontario government from Canada Pension and the teachers' superannuation plan, we have always supported such borrowings. We think that is a good social as well as good economic use of those funds.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do any other members wish to participate in the debate? Does the Treasurer have any final comment?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** No.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I would like to indicate the business of the House in the coming week. With the exception of the first item on Monday, June 2, which will be Bill 98, the Foreign Arbitral Awards Act, and private members' public business standing in the names of the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) and the member for York South (Mr. Rae) on Thursday morning, the week will be devoted to committee of the whole House for clause-by-clause examination of Bill 94. If by any chance it were to carry short of the end of the week, the House leaders will be glad to provide additional work for the members.

The House adjourned at 6:27 p.m.



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No. 23

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**  
Friday, May 30, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, May 30, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now adjourn during pleasure.

## BISHOP DESMOND TUTU

**Mr. Speaker:** On this most historic day, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our guests to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is indeed an honour to receive such a distinguished guest as Bishop Desmond Tutu to this House. I would also like to extend special greetings to his daughter, Ms. M'Pho Tutu and Marshall Opie.

With us today, we also have Franklin Williams, president of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, and Bernice Powell, a director with the fund. Accompanying the official party are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Belafonte.

Before I ask our guest to address this assembly, I know that the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) and the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Rae) would also like to say a word of welcome to the bishop and his family.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Your Grace, it is with a very deep sense of honour that I welcome you and the members of your official party to the Legislature of Ontario this afternoon.

Here in Ontario, we represent nine million Ontarians, and I can assure you each one of them shares the pride we all feel this afternoon in welcoming you.

It has been 34 years since the Legislature of this province has been addressed by a visitor from outside Canada. Your visit today is unique, sir, but it is no more unique than the role you play, the role of the conscience for our times. Your sense of commitment commands the respect of all people of Ontario, of all races, creeds and political philosophy. We admire your commitment to justice, and we are inspired by your efforts to pursue peace.

You have accepted a rare mission: where there is despair, to raise hope; where there is oppression, to bring dignity; and where there is violence, to seek peace.

This may come as a surprise to you, sir, but my friends across the aisle and I do not always agree on every matter. However, there is no dispute on this point: you have given much hope to all those who seek justice.

In this province, we have sought to contribute to that cause with acts of symbolism but of substance as well, and I can assure you, sir, our commitment will not diminish.

Finally, Your Grace, if I may add a personal comment, you provide leadership on one of the most troubling issues of our times. It would be very easy to let that great responsibility become an onerous burden, but I have watched you many times on television, and I am inspired by your ability to wear that weight with charm, with cheer and even with humour.

Before today, we had not met, but I have seen you consistently demonstrate that there is no issue in this world that is so grave to prevent people from smiling at each other, because smiling at each other is a step towards loving each other.

I welcome you warmly, sir.

**Mr. Grossman:** Your Grace, for all of us in this chamber as well as for those tens of thousands who will watch us today, it is a very great honour to be participating in some small way.

When we see you, meet you and talk with you, we cross paths with history. History, of course, offers only opportunities to people. It truly calls no one; it offers opportunity. It is the very few who have the courage and the determination to step into that opportunity, to take their people forward against enormous odds and in sometimes very frightening circumstances.

I say to our guest that when he comes here today he inspires us. He puts the things we debate in this House and in our communities in some real perspective. To those of us who in some small way have experienced here in Canada a modest degree of prejudice from time to time and have looked upon that as an enormous mountain, your presence, your fight and your success make those mountains seem much smaller to us and make your mountain so much more important and significant to everyone.



There are few who truly have the combination that we find in our guest today: the commitment to lead, the courage to take significant risks, the strength to fight and, I suppose, the incredible faith that allows him to mount that fight against prejudice and intolerance and to conquer it with an unswerving determination to do so in a peaceful way.

You are here, I say to the bishop, not among silent supporters in this province, not among people who wish to be spectators. In this province, perhaps uniquely, we have people who care, who have looked forward to your visit and who have sought many ways in which they can participate, be they large or small. The hearts, commitment and caring of every resident of this province are with you.

I say to the bishop, on behalf of the party that has had an opportunity to contribute in some small way, the party that brought us the first bill of rights in this country and first Human Rights Code, we welcome you. We welcome you in the knowledge that it is not only all of South Africa that is currently on trial and being tested but also all of civilized humanity that is now being tested. In this jurisdiction, we will not in any way fail that test.

We wish you well and welcome you.

**2:10 p.m.**

**Mr. Rae:** Your Grace, it was a great American Democrat, Adlai Stevenson, who upon addressing a similar gathering and hearing such introductions was moved to say, "Flattery is okay so long as you do not inhale."

I want to start by quoting to Your Grace the words of one of the great Christian consciences of our time, who wrote more than 30 years ago: "Prophecy is a function of the church, for it will always be the duty of the church to proclaim that this world is God's world.... Sin is not and never can be a purely personal matter. The problem of evil affects the whole human race. The sin of racial pride: the evil of the doctrine of apartheid, these are things which must be condemned by the church, and their consequences clearly and unmistakably proclaimed. That is prophecy. It is also politics."

These are the words of a special hero of mine, Trevor Huddleston, whose work as an Anglican priest fighting apartheid inspired South Africa and the world more than 30 years ago. I know, sir, that Trevor Huddleston has a special place in your heart and that you have taken on the prophetic role, not only in South Africa but also for you and the church throughout the world, with a passion and a courage that has inspired us

all. It has moved the world not as a cold prophetic power, but because it draws its strength from the power of love; not a love that is weak or sentimental, but a love that condemns racial domination and apartheid because they stop people from being able to express their hearts and minds as brothers and sisters in the world and because they stop black people and white people from being able to love one another just because we are all people.

Your presence among us is an honour. I think you can gather that from the sense of pride, the sense of occasion that has taken hold of this assembly. It is also more than just an honour; it is a unique chance for all of us to renew our commitment to a multiracial world and, most important today, to a multiracial South Africa and to fight the scourge of racism with all the love, anger and deeds at our command.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a great privilege for me today, as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, to introduce our very special guest, the Right Reverend Desmond Tutu, Bishop of Johannesburg. Your Grace, I will now ask you to please honour this assembly with your address.

**Bishop Tutu:** Mr. Speaker, honourable members of this distinguished Legislative Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, it is a very great honour and a very great privilege for me to address such an august gathering. Thank you very much for the wonderfully warm words of welcome and the tremendous welcome both in weather and from the people of this great province of this great country.

English is a very odd language. When I was a student at King's College, London, I used to sit next to a fellow South African, a white South African, who had an Afrikaans surname but was English-speaking. One day one of our professors, perfectly correctly, discussing one thing or another, said "and the nigger in the woodpile." I had not heard what he was referring to; so I turned to my South African friend and asked, "What did he say?" He said, "He means you." I could have said, "I am very deeply thrilled," but it would be odd, given my complexion, to say I was tickled pink.

It is a very odd state of affairs that in the land of my birth I could not be addressing a similar gathering; and the honour that is done me, I know, is done in a representative capacity. You are saying you want to demonstrate your solidarity with those who are victims of one of the most vicious systems the world has known, and I have often added, since Moses's time.



You are saying: "Bishop Tutu, we want to ask you to be a conduit to the people of South Africa, all the people of South Africa, black and white. Make them aware that the world cares, the world is concerned, the world would like to be part of the process of bringing to birth a new South Africa; that the world cares not just for black people, the world cares for all people."

I receive this outstanding honour in that representative capacity, and it gives me the opportunity of saying thank you very much to all of you for that concern and that caring, for that upholding of those who are going through a traumatic experience as they learn painfully, in a cautioning kind of way, that ultimately you can be human only together, that you can survive only together, that you can be free only together.

**2:20 p.m.**

I want to thank the United Way and all those involved in the Toronto Arts Against Apartheid Festival. They are tremendous people.

Sometimes you get the notion that people try to inject the notion into your heart that what you do is insignificant; it cannot make a difference. Let me disabuse you of that notion. When people see a colossal problem, they wonder whether they can do anything to make a difference. They need to keep remembering what they are told about how to eat an elephant: one piece at a time. What you do where you are counts and makes a difference, if only to those who have their noses rubbed daily in the dust, to know that the world cares.

We have a crazy country, a beautiful country, a country with enormous potential for being the greatest country, God's own country, with apologies to Canada. They do tell some stories there which feature a character called van der Merwe, who is something like Paddy in Irish stories. He got a little upset that Russia and the United States were the ones that were getting all the kudos for their space programs, so he announced that South Africa was going to launch a spacecraft to the sun, no less. When people said, "Oh, van der Merwe, before your craft lands on the sun, it will have been burnt to cinders," he said: "You do not think we South Africans are stupid. We will launch it at night."

Sometimes when you look at what is happening in our country, what is unfolding—a drama that is reaching what appears is going to be a bloody denouement—you wonder. I started by saying I could not address a similar legislative assembly at home. Anyone looking on would say: "But that is extraordinary. Here is someone who is a bishop in the church of God, whom

some have thought sufficiently responsible perhaps to become the archbishop of his own denomination, 54 years of age, a Nobel laureate. In the land of his birth, he cannot vote, and an 18-year-old, because he or she is white or, more recently, so-called coloured or Indian, can vote. There must be something strange."

Many have sought to change that situation in our country using conventional methods, non-violent methods. All along the line, our people, seeking to protest against the politics of exclusion, have been met with the intransigence and the violence of apartheid. In Sharpeville in 1960, 69 of our people were shot in the back while running away from the police after protesting peacefully against the pass laws.

In 1976, our children were singing in the streets and in 1984 they were protesting a constitution which mentions 73 per cent of the population of South Africa in one sentence. We are mentioned in one sentence of a constitution which some said was a step in the right direction: "All matters relating to blacks will be dealt with by the state president by decree."

Since 1984, our people protesting against this have been killed wantonly. More than 1,500 have died. Our country is sliding into a morass of bloodshed and chaos. The Commonwealth, in what I believe to be a very responsible act, sought to be part of the process of helping South Africa to move from an unjust dispensation to a more equitable one and sent this group called the Eminent Persons. I want to pay a very warm tribute to Archbishop Edward Scott, who has been a member of that group seeking painfully to bring South Africans together so they could sit together and work out a solution for that country.

Are we crazy? When this group was in the country, at a delicate stage in the process, South Africa launched an attack on its neighbouring countries. Some of us have said there is no hope now that we will move to a negotiated settlement except it be by pressure exerted on the South African government. The international community should intervene.

I stand here appealing to people of conscience. Help us. Please help us. Our country is burning. Our children are dying. An 11-year-old was kept in jail for five months in solitary confinement because he had thrown a stone in protest against being treated as less than what God intended for him. It is a country that some have said is a last bastion against communism. I can only say that if you are looking for the best recruiter for communism, then it would be the South African government.



If people are concerned for the fate of white South Africans, the best way of ensuring that white South Africans survive is to be part of the process of dismantling apartheid.

**2:30 p.m.**

I speak with a heavy heart. I love that country and its people passionately and I do not like to see it destroyed. I speak on behalf of people among the white community, which has some tremendous people, who by rights ought to be saying, "We cannot oppose a system that provides us with such substantial privileges," and yet they are. However, South African whites are not demons. They are ordinary people, many of them scared people. Would you not be if you were outnumbered five to one? The best way of ensuring that they survive is to be part of a process that will ensure the destruction of this monster that dehumanizes both the victim and the perpetrator, and perhaps dehumanizes the perpetrator even more.

Would you not say something has happened to the humanity of a man who, when told of the death of a fellow human being when Steve Biko was battered to death, as the then so-called Minister of Justice was told, could say it left him cold? Would you not say something has happened to the humanity of someone who could say on the death of a fellow human being that it leaves him cold?

My concern ultimately is not for the freedom and the liberation of black people; my concern is for the liberation of white people. As long as we are unfree, to that extent will all white people remain unfree. I have no doubt at all that we are going to be free. We are going to be free because this is God's intention for all of us in South Africa.

I invite you to be part of God's glorious enterprise to set free all of His people, black and white, in South Africa, to be part of this enterprise that will transfigure the uglinesses, the hatreds, the animosities, the anxieties and the suspicions, that will transfigure all this into

compassion, caring, loving, laughter, joy and sharing, to be part of God's intention for all His people so that we will see the kingdoms of this world being transfigured into the kingdom of our God and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever. Amen.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Premier now will offer a few words of appreciation on behalf of all us here assembled.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Your Grace, I know I speak for all members of this assembly, all people gathered in this chamber today and all Ontarians when I say thank you for sharing with us your words today. Let me assure you on their behalf that your words will not scatter with the wind; they will stay with all of us for all seasons.

I was moved when you talked about the individual responsibility that every person personally shares. The history books are filled with the stories of individuals who have changed the course of history. My guess is that when history is recorded, sir, yours will be highly ensconced in this important fight for all humanity.

I will not try to match your eloquence, but will say personally what a great pleasure it is to have you and to listen to you. I would like to share with this House the words of a poet, who I am sure is familiar to you, Pascal Gwala, in his poem *Beyond Dreams*.

Crazy is the world of living dreams,  
And dreams we have to burn into hopes;  
Hopes we have to bend into reality;  
It's where freedom lies.

Your Grace, on behalf of the people of Ontario, thank you for sharing your wisdom on where the path to freedom lies.

**Mr. Speaker:** This House will now come to order.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Monday, May 12, 1986, this House stands adjourned until two of the clock next Monday afternoon.

The House adjourned at 2:37 p.m.



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**SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE**

Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)

Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental  
Affairs (London Centre L)

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Tutu, Bishop D.









# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**  
Monday, June 2, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC





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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, June 2, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## VISITOR

**The Deputy Speaker:** I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery the Honourable Evan Walker, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Victoria, Australia.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mrs. Marland:** It is with grave concern I rise today to report the death of someone in 1986, a death which could have been avoided. On May 28, John Mee, a 53-year-old former Canadian Football League referee, died unnecessarily in his home in Mississauga while waiting for a bypass operation that would have saved his life. John's operation had been postponed for five weeks because of a bed shortage at the Toronto General Hospital. The hospital currently does not have any chronic care beds, and 50 of its acute care beds are occupied by chronic care patients.

The Ontario Hospital Association has told this government that \$250 million is needed to resolve the bed shortage in Ontario hospitals; yet the Liberal government refuses to provide the necessary funds that would have saved John Mee's life and the lives of countless others who have died unnecessarily. Instead, it continues to obscure the real issues in health care for the sake of the political life of the Liberal Party and has engaged our medical community in an unnecessary confrontation that will not provide one additional dollar for health care in this province.

The tragedy of John Mee's death should prompt all Ontarians to look behind the rhetoric of the Liberal Party and give their full support to those who are truly committed to saving lives.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr. Martel:** Last week the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) announced a review, to be made by Mr. McKenzie from Coopers and Lybrand, to look at the Occupational Health and Safety Act and determine its efficiency. As well, it will determine the priorities.

The minister sent with the task force I conducted a senior policy analyst, who followed us around for the full five weeks and saw all the problems involved in this bill. I invited the minister to meet with Mr. Gulbinas of his own staff and with me to determine what was wrong with the act. We do not need a further delay. Mr. Gulbinas from the ministry is fully aware of what is going on. To this time, the minister has not accepted our invitation. He has just adopted a smokescreen, which will delay any improvement in the Occupational Health and Safety Act to protect the workers.

At the same time, I might indicate that what happens at the Ministry of Labour, according to his own staff, is that issues which are fed in go through five or six layers of bureaucracy. By the time what is laid on the deputy's desk reaches him, it has been altered so badly that the deputy is making recommendations on issues which are totally irrelevant. These are based on the facts put before him, which do not recognize the facts which started into the swamp. I hope we will get some clearance so that we will get the swamp cleared up once and for all.

### RECYCLING

**Mr. Offer:** It is a pleasure to rise today to inform the Legislature that today, June 2, 1986, marks the official launching of the city of Mississauga's city-wide curbside recycling program, the largest undertaking of its kind in North America. Householders throughout the city have been given a special recycling box, known as the blue box, as shown in this poster, in which to store their recyclable material in their home and to set it out at the curb. Old newspapers, glass and metal cans will be collected once a week from the curb on the regular garbage day. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 tons of recyclable material will be collected during the first year of operation.

The council of the city of Mississauga is to be congratulated for this endeavour, together with Laidlaw Waste Systems. They have acted in a most responsible manner. They understand that recycling helps to conserve our raw material and energy resources and that recycling 7,800 tons of newspaper represents the equivalent of more than



132,000 trees. This action, not only by the council of the city of Mississauga but also by the participation of all the householders within the city, serves to remind us that rather than inheriting the environment from our parents, we borrow it from our children.

#### HOMEMAKER SERVICES

**Mr. Sheppard:** The future of the Canadian Red Cross homemaker service in Ontario depends on government funding. In view of large deficits for 1986, the Red Cross must reluctantly consider the closure of some or all of its homemaker service operations. Homemakers are an integral part of our health care system. They deal not only with problem families but child abuse, palliative care and the handicapped. In Northumberland, our two services, namely, the East Northumberland homemaker services and the West Northumberland homemaker services, employ 98 homemakers, who earn an average of \$4.60 per hour. In addition, they have to provide their own transportation with no mileage allowance available. Their projected loss for this year is \$3,000.

In the past, the service in Ontario has had to meet its costs by restricting the wages of homemakers. This is no longer possible. It is about time the Liberals faced up to their commitments to the voluntary sector. Homemaker services, including those in my riding, would like to be assured that initially they will receive an increase in the hourly rates paid for service, with a catch-up arrangement in 1986, and later have the ability to negotiate annual increases.

#### HAZARDOUS SPILL

**Ms. Gigantes:** I want to make a complaint about an event which has happened in Ottawa. It has to do with the discovery, once again this spring, of a slick. It was called an oil slick when it was first reported in the Ottawa press several weeks ago, but upon investigation it turned out to be coal tar. Pumping began of the coal-tar site, which was an old Ottawa Gas company site on Lees Avenue and is the site of a transit station in the Ottawa area. So far the region has pumped 1.1 million gallons of coal tar out of that site at a cost of \$1.8 million. The pumping, which was supposed to be done in a couple of days when it first started, turns out to be a pumping job of some magnitude.

The workers involved in the work were sent in without uniforms and without protection. Though regional officials were given information on May 15 that there was a danger in

exposing the workers, it was not until May 27 that they themselves were told. The coal tar has been shipped to a plant in Gloucester, which is operating on a site that does not have the proper zoning, and the processing plant was supposed to have closed down by now. It has not. Children in the next-door school, the Notre Dame des Champs school, 130 of them, have been kept out of school by their parents. I would like some explanation of how this mess has occurred.

#### CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK TELETHON

**Mr. Reycraft:** I want to report to the Legislature the splendid response by the people of western Ontario to the Children's Miracle Network Telethon last weekend. The telethon, which was broadcast by CFPL-TV in London and CKNX-TV in Wingham, was part of an international effort. Last weekend marked the first time western Ontario has participated in the telethon, a fund-raising effort that has become an annual event in a number of locations.

In total, the telethon resulted in more than \$30 million being pledged to 132 children's hospitals in Canada, the United States and Australia. In western Ontario, the telethon, which started at 9 p.m. on Saturday and ended at 6 p.m. yesterday, concluded with more than \$330,000 being pledged. All of these funds will be directed to the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario in London. The money will be used to support much needed research, new equipment and expanded programs.

More than 2,000 volunteers participated in the telethon, manning telephones and performing other duties in a makeshift television studio at Victoria Hospital's Westminster campus in London. I want to salute those volunteers this afternoon for their very generous donation of their time and talents and to congratulate them on the success of the Children's Miracle Network Telethon.

#### ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

**Mr. Haggerty:** Today marks the 120th anniversary of the Battle of Lime Ridge or the Battle of Ridgeway, turning back the Fenians. This year, 1986, marks the diamond jubilee of the founding of one of Canada's largest veterans' associations, the Royal Canadian Legion. Branches of the Royal Canadian Legion in Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Bertie have established a tradition over many years of carrying out the mandate of honouring Canada's fallen soldiers from the battlefields of the Niagara region,



Western Europe, England, France, Italy, Belgium, the Pacific Rim, Hong Kong and Korea.

Visits by legion members to many cemeteries, marking the veterans' gravesides with a Canadian flag, flowers and a poppy, awaken memories of the past, of the perils and triumphs that mark our nation's history. Decoration Day honours the veterans of the First World War and the Second World War. It is a special tribute to the many thousands of young soldiers who never returned to their beloved homeland.

**2:12 p.m.**

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

### SENIOR CITIZENS' SERVICES

**Hon. Mr. Van Horne:** Mr. Speaker, as you can see from the lapel button I am wearing and from various posters around the building, June is Senior Citizens Month in Ontario. It is fitting, therefore, that today I am tabling our white paper entitled *A New Agenda: Health and Social Services Strategies for Ontario's Seniors*.

The agenda is indeed new. It is also unprecedented. For the first time in the history of this province, a government has set out a broad strategic plan that will serve our senior citizens now and in the future.

Before I elaborate on this blueprint for the future, let me point out that our work on this white paper, which has been carried out on a co-operative basis with several ministries, has not kept us from acting. In January, we provided \$11 million to improve community services for seniors. We are also in the midst of implementing our new homemaker program. This represents an additional \$8 million this year. Further, under our new housing strategy, more than 1,500 housing units for senior citizens will be started this year.

This brings me to our white paper. Its central purpose is to develop a comprehensive system of services to help seniors live active and independent lives in their own communities and to reduce significantly preventable and unnecessary institutionalization. To accomplish this, the white paper sets out a broad plan based on five strategies.

Our first strategy is to improve the health and functional status of our senior citizens. We will do this through an increased emphasis on health promotion and illness prevention, education in geriatrics, education of more geriatric and psychogeriatric specialists and research related to ageing and the aged.

Our second strategy is to help keep the frail elderly in the community. To achieve this, we intend to expand significantly community support services, particularly in northern, remote and underserved areas, and to improve accessibility and delivery of these programs through a single access or a one-stop shopping approach.

Third, hospitals play a key role in maintaining the health of the elderly and thereby enabling many to continue living at home. Our third strategy then is to enhance geriatric hospital care. We will accomplish this primarily by setting up regional geriatric centres, expanding specialized outreach and inpatient services and placing a greater emphasis on rehabilitation and convalescent programs.

Our fourth strategy is to ensure high quality, long-term care for those who cannot continue to live independently in the community. Pivotal to this is the development of new legislation to rationalize and improve significantly the existing extended care program. We also intend to regulate the quality of care in rest homes.

Finally, it is clear that a comprehensive system of services for seniors cannot be achieved through a fragmented series of initiatives as in the past. Accordingly, our fifth strategy is to introduce comprehensive planning and management of health and social services for the elderly at both the provincial and local level.

The strategies I have just described outline a broad plan to meet the challenges of Ontario's ageing population. Planning is not enough. We have to act and act now. Obviously, everything we want to do for our elderly cannot be done at once, nor can it be done in an ad hoc fashion. The system can be created only through planned co-operative action. Today the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) will announce our first round of initiatives in direct support of this white paper.

Before my colleagues provide the details of their specific initiatives, I want to point out that these programs represent an additional expenditure of \$13.5 million in this fiscal year and an annualized cost of more than \$30 million in 1987-88 in new dollars.

In addition, I will continue my role in policy development in health and social services. I will address three major areas: new extended care legislation, the regulation of rest homes and one-stop shopping for community services.

Considerable consultation will be required to develop and implement these initiatives. How-



ever, I want to stress again that it is our intention to move as swiftly as possible. For example, we intend to have the first pilot one-stop shopping project in operation in approximately 15 months. Our new agenda is full and our timetable busy. We are planning; we are acting; we are moving in vital new directions for Ontario's senior citizens.

The white paper I released today concentrates on health and social services for the elderly. In the future, I will be releasing further reports on other issues affecting senior citizens such as housing, income security and transportation.

Before I take my seat, let me simply say thank you to the many hundreds of Ontarians who assisted me with their input in this consultation process and also thank my staff, who have worked so diligently on the preparation of this paper.

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** The government of Ontario has made a strong commitment to improving the quality of life of the seniors of this province. I am very pleased to be working with all of my cabinet colleagues towards that important goal. In that regard, I would like to inform this House about three new initiatives to improve community services for the elderly. Let me quickly outline the details.

On January 28, 1986, I announced that the new integrated homemaker program would be introduced in six communities across the province. Five of the six projects are now providing homemaker services to clients and the sixth project will be on board shortly.

I am pleased to announce today that we will be extending that program to include an additional six to eight communities during this fiscal year. The cost of this expansion will amount to more than \$12 million a year. I will be announcing very shortly the names of the specific communities involved.

Second, there will be a substantial improvement to home support services. We will be allotting an additional \$2 million this fiscal year to enhance these vital services for seniors. This funding is in addition to the \$11 million in new spending for home support services announced on January 28. These additional dollars will go towards an expansion of services and an enrichment of the funding base.

As of April 1, the provincial share of the cost of home support services was increased from 50 to 60 per cent. I am pleased to tell the House today that, beginning next fiscal year, we will be increasing our share to a maximum of 70 per cent. This change will amount to an additional cost of \$2.4 million.

Third, we will be contributing an additional \$3 million annually to enhance community services for victims of Alzheimer's disease and their families. We will be experimenting with innovative approaches to providing residential services in small, home-like settings for Alzheimer's victims who can no longer be cared for by their own families.

The white paper on health and social services for the elderly released today by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mr. Van Horne) provides an important blueprint for the future. I can assure members that my colleagues and I will continue to work together to take the steps necessary to translate that blueprint into reality.

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** I should like to reinforce my colleague's statements concerning this government's commitment to enhance the quality of care of Ontario's senior citizens.

J'aimerais souligner l'importance des observations de mes collègues en ce qui a trait à l'intention du présent gouvernement d'élever la qualité des soins dispensés aux personnes âgées de l'Ontario.

Pour parvenir à cette fin, nous devons nous assurer d'avoir à notre disposition les services de professionnels qualifiés qui soient en mesure de répondre aux besoins particuliers des personnes âgées.

The continuing growth in the proportion of elderly in our society has been recognized by Ontario's colleges of applied arts and technology and by our universities. Many have developed new courses and have improved gerontological and geriatric content in health sciences, social services, family studies and other program areas. Faculty members in our universities and teaching hospitals are engaged in basic and applied research related to the aged and to the ageing process itself.

However, given the rate of demographic change in our society, these efforts will need to be further enhanced. We need to continue to improve undergraduate and graduate training for all those who will work with the elderly in the future. We need to continue to assist in the development of continuing education programs for our existing practitioners. We also need to ensure an adequate supply of geriatric specialists, for example, geriatricians, psychogeriatricians, audiologists, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers and others.

To support these activities and to promote excellence in education, this government has committed itself to establishing a multidisciplinary



nary department of geriatrics at an Ontario university health sciences centre. This department will provide a focus for the development of exemplary clinical services in conjunction with regional geriatric units and with related institutional, home care and community services. It will also provide teaching resources for undergraduate and graduate medical, nursing and other professional education programs and will be involved in research related to the elderly.

The department is expected to be developed on a phased-in basis, beginning with geriatric medicine in 1987-88. Other professional programs will be added in subsequent years. Up to \$1.5 million has been designated for this initiative in 1987-88.

**Mr. Rae:** Is this another university or the same university?

**L'hon. M. Sorbara:** Ce n'est pas une autre.

Je compte écrire, au cours des prochaines semaines, aux universités dotées d'un centre des sciences de la santé pour leur faire part de cette initiative et leur demander de nous communiquer leurs suggestions. Nous avons également l'intention de consulter auprès du Conseil des universités de l'Ontario à ce sujet.

I am sure members of the Legislative Assembly will join me and all Ontario citizens in welcoming the opportunities being presented to us this afternoon for improving services for our Ontario senior citizens.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The provision of care and supportive services to the elderly of this province is one of the major priorities of my ministry. When we consider the demographic changes now occurring within the Ontario population, it becomes apparent that a great deal of careful study, planning and deliberation must take place if the programs we will soon require are to be properly financed, implemented and organized for effective delivery.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health has strongly supported the special responsibility and mandate given to my colleague the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs.

We have worked co-operatively with the United Senior Citizens of Ontario to see that the white paper being presented today marks a new beginning in the development of services for the elderly in this province. We will fully support the consultation process soon to be under way.

Our common goal is to see a comprehensive, co-ordinated network of services in which elderly people are able to move smoothly from one level of care to another as their health status and support needs change and evolve.

We want to see a better and more effective balance develop between institutional care, on the one hand, and community-based programs, on the other. We want to expand the support structures that will enable more elderly people to live independently in their own communities just as long as that is a feasible and realistic option for them.

Shortly, I will ask the 12 community health centres operating in Ontario to review their programs and services and to consider how they might be adapted to meet more of the needs of elderly people. Specifically, we will be looking to the development of programs such as nutritional counselling, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and dental hygiene, as well as educational programs on drug monitoring and substance abuse.

I have also asked the district health councils throughout the province to give special consideration to proposals for community health centres with a particular orientation to caring for the frail elderly. Similarly, any new proposal for a CHC that is to be located near senior citizens' housing and with programs especially designed for elderly people will be considered favourably. The ministry has allocated \$500,000 in funding, which will be made available for community health centres that are ready to move ahead with these initiatives.

The Ministry of Health will also provide \$5 million towards the development of five regional geriatric units in the five health sciences centres in Ontario. The units will be located at university teaching hospitals and will become resource centres for geriatric care in their respective areas.

Our five health sciences centres in the province are Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston and Ottawa. Among these, two geriatric units were established earlier on a developmental basis at Ottawa Civic Hospital and Hamilton's Chedoke-McMaster hospitals but have never been fully funded. These initiatives will provide additional funding to allow these units to reach full regional status, as well as funding for three new regional units. Local district health councils will consult with medical faculties and their affiliated teaching hospitals to recommend where the new units will be located.

All regional geriatric units will have multidisciplinary health care teams for assessment and treatment and will operate on both an outpatient and inpatient basis. The teams will be able to work with elderly people with complex health problems, bringing a variety of skills to the assessment process. Specialist geriatricians, nur-



ses, social workers, physiotherapists, dieticians, pharmacists and other care providers will also be involved.

In addition to directly providing assessment and treatment programs for the elderly patients, each unit will be a resource centre for other institutions and community programs. They will promote improvements in the quality of care in hospitals, other institutions and community programs involved in providing care to elderly people. The units will be training centres for undergraduates, post-graduate physicians and other health care professionals and will undertake research on issues of ageing. They will help to develop guidelines to assist district health councils and hospitals in developing a comprehensive plan for geriatric services.

Once this initial program is fully staffed and operational, it will be subject to a thorough review and evaluation. When this evaluation has been completed, we will then consider the expansion of regional geriatric units to other hospitals in the province.

I wish to stress that, for the Ministry of Health, this is only the beginning of what will be a series of major new program developments for elderly people. This is one health care challenge we accept enthusiastically. As minister, I am pledged to see the services of my ministry developed and strengthened in such a way that we will be able to meet the future health care needs of all the people of this province.

**Mr. Dean:** On behalf of my colleagues in this party, I welcome the final emergence, from wherever it has been hiding, of the statement and report by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. I congratulate the minister in apparently being able finally to convince his colleagues that some action was needed here.

I also note we are still going to have to wait a long time, as we have already had to wait—namely, about 11 months and a further 15 months, which makes a total of two years and two additional months—before we actually get any positive action on some of these absolutely essential things.

In the meantime, I am sure members are aware that the Progressive Conservative Party released in April a discussion paper called *Care for the Elderly: Developing a More Co-ordinated and Community-Based Approach*. I suggest one reason for the long delay was that the government was incorporating those very good comments in this paper because there are some very similar wordings.

Here is one example: On page 4 of the minister's statement, it states that he is going to introduce "comprehensive planning and management of health and social services for the elderly." In our paper, we advocate "rationalized, co-ordinated and linked services for a community-based...complete continuum of care for the elderly." This is something we can all agree with, but we have some reservations about some of the details which we will be addressing later.

**Mr. Cousens:** We on this side are pleased to see a continuum of care for senior citizens. It is rather surprising. Our belief is that every month should be Senior Citizens Month. Ongoing support for seniors is not something on which there should be a surge at the beginning of Senior Citizens Month.

I share in the comments of our critic for senior citizens' affairs that this is a most important subject and that we in our party, in the preparation of this report and in the continued dialogue we are having with people across the province on *Care for the Elderly*, are anxious to make sure that the needs of our seniors are being met, are being addressed fully and honestly, and that our society is giving its share back to them for what they have done.

From what they are saying, I am sure the ministries are still arguing to try to come up with a solution. The integrated homemaker program is one program we began ourselves. We are pleased to see it being expanded. To put \$2 million into home support services does not begin to solve the problem. At least we are seeing some action in the right direction. We are pleased to see the initiatives being taken today. We just hope they are not empty words.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I want to indicate at the outset that I am not nearly as combative as I look. I congratulate the minister and the government on the presentation of this document. It seems rather strange that I have yet to locate my button in the package. I see other members have buttons, and I am sure they will want to share those buttons with members of the opposition.

The pages have brought me two buttons. Now I am going to have quite a collection.

As did my colleagues the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) and the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens), I welcome the presentation of this paper. It is a very complicated and detailed document, so I am sure I will be excused if I do not comment in detail on some 24 pages, including two pages for notes.



On page 1 of his statement the Minister of Health says, "Therefore, the Ministry of Health has strongly supported the special responsibility and mandate given to my colleague the minister responsible for senior citizens' affairs." I suggest the minister had his tongue a long way in his cheek, given that we have waited so long for this document and that the minister's budget had to be quadrupled to accommodate the repeated reprintings of the document as it was savaged by his cabinet colleagues.

Finally, on page 3, the Minister of Health—

**Mr. Mancini:** Send the buttons back.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Does the member want the buttons back?

The minister discusses the regional geriatric assessment centres. That is a commendable idea. I only say there are many communities in rural Ontario which need the same kind of co-ordination and we would encourage that kind of thought.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** My colleagues from the Conservative Party and from the Liberal Party who talk about a continuum of care point out very clearly the problem today in regard to care of the elderly of this province. The fact that we assume there is a continuum of care where all senior citizens, as they grow older, have to go into institutions is the bottom-line problem with our health care system in Ontario.

Ontario's rate of institutionalization of its elderly people is absolutely disgusting. It is something of which every one of us in this Legislature should be ashamed. Statements were also made by other ministers today, but the statement of the Minister of Health specifically seems to repeat the assumption that our older people must eventually end up in institutions. I quote from the minister's statement:

"Our common goal is to see a comprehensive, co-ordinated network of services in which elderly people are able to move smoothly from one level of care to another as their health status and their support needs change and evolve."

That points very clearly to the fact that this government assumes elderly people in this province must eventually end up in institutions. They use a good line today in all the statements; they use all the right words. The reality is that there is virtually no new money in all the statements the ministers have made today.

The \$11 million referred to was announced in January. Housing has already been announced. The fact is that the amount of money here today is about five per cent of the amount of money we spend annually on nursing homes alone in this

province. The amount of money totally, even the reannounced money, works out to perhaps one chronic care hospital. It appears there has been very little shift in policy announced here today by the government.

There is talk by the Minister of Health and by the Minister of Community and Social Services about emphasizing the 12 community health centres and re-evaluating their priorities, but where is the statement about expanding our community health service program? Why are we not putting in a significant amount of money and initiating community health centres in this province so seniors and other communities have access to community-based services? There is no mention of that.

One aspect I am very pleased with is the minister's announcement that rest homes in this province are going to be regulated. Our party has been asking for regulation of private rest homes for years. I dare say many senior citizens and many residents of rest homes have been involved in incidents that have resulted in death. The lack of regulation of rest homes is something about which the former government should hang its head in shame, because it neglected that group of people in our province.

All the right words and all the right phrases are used today, but I hope the government will look at a real change in philosophy and put that change in philosophy into practice. I would have been much happier had the government put forward some money today and had it looked at a shift in responsibility. In my view, as long as we continue to leave the majority of responsibilities for senior citizens' care in Ontario with the Ministry of Health, we are going to have a continued emphasis on illness treatment and on institutions.

If we are to look at community-based services, we can do that. There are services that have been tried. All one needs to do is to look at day hospitals, home care programs, day care programs and group homes. These programs are already in place. We do not need to continue to consult. We need a government with the guts and the will to put these programs in place. I hope today is the beginning of that reality.

**Mr. Warner:** It is fairly obvious from the paper that was read out today that there are some glaring omissions. I do not know how the minister can leave out dental care for seniors, transportation services for seniors and temporary short-term or long-term care to provide respite for family members who are caring for seniors, or how he can consider reforming the system of



care for seniors without launching a complete and full investigation into the deplorable state of this province's nursing homes.

Whoever wrote the line in this book that there were reservations regarding quality of care and inspection services in nursing homes must be living in another ozone layer.

#### ITALIAN NATIONAL REPUBLIC DAY

**Hon. Mr. Ruprecht:** On behalf of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the government of Ontario, I rise for the purpose of recognizing an important event that took place on this day 40 years ago, June 2, 1946, the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Italy.

To celebrate this day, I am honoured to recognize in the gallery representatives of the Italian government and leaders of the Italian-Canadian community: Dr. Massimo Machia, consul general of Italy; Aldo Violi, the president of the National Congress of Italian Canadians, Toronto district; Manlio d'Ambrosio, president of the Ontario region of the national congress; and Angelo Delfino, national secretary of the congress.

June 2, 1946, is of great historic significance and sentimental value to our citizens of Italian heritage and to the people living in Italy, a country not only of monumental buildings, famous explorers and noted scientists, but also a trusted friend and ally, a loyal trading partner and a committed supporter of democratic and civil rights around the world.

We recognize the valuable contribution Italo-Canadians have made to the cultural and economic development of Ontario and Canada. Our province has become enriched because our Italian friends, on coming here, have brought with them their love of art, music, architecture and education. More than that, they have strengthened the pillars of our multicultural society by adding their traditional respect for hard work and family life. We have benefited greatly from their participation in sports, business, professions and, more recently, government and law.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The time for ministerial statements has expired.

**Mr. McClellan:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps you could waive the time requirements for ministerial statements and permit each of the opposition parties to welcome the delegation, outside the provision of the standing orders.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent to extend the 20 minutes?

Agreed to.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The responses are not going to be part of the 10-minute responses, is that correct?

**Some hon. members:** Yes.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Ruprecht:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the suggestion.

In appreciation of this contribution, our welcome to visitors from Italy is always warm and sincere. Therefore, in recognition of this special bond of friendship that exists between the people of Ontario and Canada and the people of Italy, the government of Ontario proclaims June 2 as Italian National Republic Day.

**Ms. Fish:** I am pleased and proud to rise and join in the sentiments expressed by the minister on behalf of the government and extend to our Italian brothers and sisters our sincerest congratulations on this 40th anniversary of the arrival of true democracy to their country. For those many who have chosen to come to this land we are pleased to call Canada, put down their roots and contribute to our society, we are ever grateful. Congratulations, and welcome again.

**Mr. Rae:** [Remarks in Italian]

2:46 p.m.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Mr. Rowe:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. His government has made a lot of noise lately regarding the some \$850 million for capital projects in the health field in the last budget. Can he tell me why there is a further delay of nine months to a year before the new hospital in Barrie will to get a starting date?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman who at one time, before he was even elected to this assembly, took it upon himself to announce the hospital would be built, will want to know that we have moved ahead with the planning procedures. We have given approvals to do planning with respect to joint function stage reviews at Orillia and Barrie. We have gone a long way to addressing the needs that have been suggested in questions brought to our attention by the district health council in the member's area. We are progressing at the rate that is the usual pace at which planning is done. We are not going to move ahead quickly in the sense of cutting off time. We want to make sure we have



the best functional plans for the people of his area. He will appreciate that the planning process must follow those routes.

**Mr. Rowe:** I suggest to the minister that planning does not take a lady dying in the hall without her family. That does not move them ahead or help them a bit.

Is the minister aware of a letter of transmittal dated April 18, 1986, from the Simcoe District Health Council to him giving its final advice on six recommendations establishing the breakdown of beds and recommending that the new hospital in Barrie start as quickly as possible? Why does he continue to delay a decision on this matter and play a game of health roulette with the residents of Simcoe county?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The member is absolutely wrong. We are not playing a game of health roulette with anybody, least likely with anybody in his riding. His comment in his preamble that suggested the lady had been pulled from a room without the presence of her family is absolutely wrong. In addition, she was placed in an area where her family members could have access. These people will understand that the staff at the hospital provided that lady with an area where she could be visited by her family.

We are not playing medical roulette or health care roulette with any of the people there. We have received recommendations from the district health council, and in addition, the district health council has done a lot of work to provide us with an overall planning document with respect to bed needs in the entire Simcoe area. The member will understand and appreciate we must have that advice and we must act upon that overall co-ordinated planning advice. We are proceeding to review the submission put by the hospitals. Those hospitals have done a lot more work together since I met with them last fall than they had before. They are making good progress. Progress is being made, and I am pleased to see it being made.

**Mr. Rowe:** Both the district health council and the hospital agree that the council's final report, which will take between nine months and a year, will not affect the planning process. The minister has available right now all the information he needs; so why will he not stop playing politics, stop giving the residents of Simcoe county a second-class health care system and give us a starting date for the hospital? He has it all. He could do it now if he wanted to.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I have never seen anybody stand up and play more politics with this issue than the people in the honourable member's

party. It was introduced in about 1979 by a former Minister of Health. We are moving along in the planning process at the rate the planning process is supposed to move. We have not delayed it. We have asked the questions that must be asked to make sure the planning is co-ordinated not only between the hospitals in Barrie and Orillia but also to meet the needs of the long-term guidelines of the district health council.

I have spent a lot of time making sure those plans have been formulated in a manner in which there will be delivery of good and quality health care and co-ordinated health care services in the member's area. We have moved a lot farther than it had moved in previous months. I am very intent on making sure that we come up with a good facility there and that we end up having first-quality health care in the area. I pledge that to the member, and I undertake to report to him as soon as we have been able to review the latest of the reports that have come forward to us.

#### URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

**Mr. Gillies:** My question is for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I wonder whether the minister will inform this House how the negotiations are proceeding on the unfortunate fire sale of the Urban Transportation Development Corp.

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** I was not aware that there was a fire sale on in terms of UTDC. As the member knows, the negotiations are very complex and are moving very slowly.

**Mr. Gillies:** As a supplementary to that rather facetious answer, I want to quote something the minister told this House on March 7. He said, "No layoffs are contemplated at the Thunder Bay facility from the present level of 700 before current orders are contemplated in 1988." Whether the minister knows it or not, it will be announced at four o'clock this afternoon that 126 employees are being laid off at that facility. How can that be justified in the light of his recent statement?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** Had the member taken the time to read the entire statement released by the president of RailTrans and Can-Car, he would realize the levels of employment are ahead of those projections made in October 1985, the time the rationalization was announced.

**Mr. Gillies:** It is not that complicated. The minister said there would be no layoffs. Now there are going to be layoffs, and there are rumours of more layoffs in Thunder Bay and in



Kingston. The minister's mishandling of this sale is costing that company orders and jobs. Will he commit to this House now that he will live up to his commitment of March, rescind the order for these layoffs in Thunder Bay and ensure that no more layoffs occur at the company until he has made some final decision as to what is going to become of this company?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** The layoffs currently taking effect are those that fall through from the rationalization that was indicated clearly to this House last fall and restated in March. The current level of employment following that layoff will be higher than was projected last fall.

### SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENTS

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Treasurer, who I am sure will agree that the entire province was electrified and moved by the visit of Bishop Tutu, not only to this Legislature on Friday but also to all the public meetings that took place over the weekend.

Since Bishop Tutu made it very clear that the way to eat an elephant is to do it bite by bite, can the Treasurer tell us now what the next bite is as far as the Ontario government is concerned in its own dealings with companies and institutions that continue to be involved with South Africa?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** I think the honourable member is aware of the statement made by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) in the House and publicly on a number of occasions, indicating it was his wish and the wish of the government that all companies and agencies divest themselves of holdings that might be associated with any kind of support, financial or otherwise, of the apartheid administration in South Africa. We have reported to the House the information that was available to us. He will also know the Ontario municipal employees retirement system board has met and confirmed its views that it would invest in nothing associated with South Africa and would divest itself of anything it holds at present.

**Mr. Rae:** It is my understanding from our discussions with OMERS this morning that the whole issue is still under review, that no formal policy statement has been made and that not even a press release has been issued. As far as we are aware, no formal decision of any kind has been made by OMERS. If it has been, it has not been communicated publicly; and if it were to be communicated, I would have expected it to be made to the Legislature.

Can the Treasurer explain why no public statement has been made, why no clear public

declaration of policy has been made, and why he will not invoke the powers granted to him by section 14 of the legislation that sets up OMERS?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** As I indicated to the honourable member, my understanding is that the OMERS board met recently and that by resolution it affirmed what I have said. If a statement is to be made, OMERS will make it, and the honourable member can comment on that. Its policy, as passed by resolution of OMERS, is that it will not undertake any additional investment and that it will divest in a timetable that is appropriate and as rapid as possible.

**Mr. Rae:** We also have the question of the hospitals which I have raised in the House. We have the question of what will be done with respect to the liquor that is still being sold by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. We have the question of government contracts with corporations such as, to mention only one, the Moore Corp., the business forms corporation, which does quite significant business in South Africa.

In relation to those, does the Treasurer not think it appropriate for the government of Ontario to establish and publicly announce today a boycott policy that makes it crystal clear to those companies doing business in South Africa that they are going to have to deal differently with the government of Ontario? Does that not make sense?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** The honourable member is aware that the government of Canada has a code of what it considers to be ethical conduct in this regard. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has put this before Parliament, and it should be the guideline that controls all governments and businesses in this connection. I believe the Deputy Minister of Finance is going to be tabling a report in the House of Commons in the near future about the application of the code.

The honourable member would know that all members of this House would agree with the views expressed by the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) and himself, as well as by many other members, associated with the visit of Bishop Tutu and even before that, that the government of Ontario and businesses in Ontario should not be doing business with the government of South Africa or businesses associated there and should be withdrawing with all reasonable haste.

### EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Attorney General as the minister responsible for women's



issues. He will be aware that a report by the alternate panellist appointed by the Ontario Federation of Labour has been made public with respect to the issue of equal pay. Since the information contained in that report points out on a purely factual basis that 92 per cent of those presenting briefs called for legislation that covers all workers, including part-time and casual workers, and that 89 per cent of the presenters felt the legislation should apply to all employers in the same way regardless of size, has the Attorney General made up his mind with respect to those crucial issues: the inclusion of part-time workers and the inclusion of all businesses regardless of size? Is he prepared to announce that today?

**3 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I have received the report my friend refers to, which I think was issued this morning. I have had occasion to look through it fairly carefully. It is a series of questions defined by the writer of the report and a catalogue listing the presenters in favour and the presenters against. I do not mean to say it necessarily matters, but there is no catalogue to tell us how many people are represented by the presenters in favour or the presenters against. I do not hold that against it; I simply make the observation. I want to tell my honourable friend that I find this very helpful for the purposes it serves, but we have not as yet made up our minds. The matter has not yet been decided by cabinet.

**Mr. Rae:** The report also does not mention the net worth of the presenters, which seems to be currently preoccupying the government. That is its big problem; we all know that. We know that is the issue that troubles the government.

I would like to ask the minister responsible for women's issues, what is the specific timetable? If he is not prepared to say that today, can he at least give us the assurance that his three reporters will also issue a public report and that all their recommendations and advice to him will be made as public as the report of Janis Sarra has been today?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I have indicated the timetable for the release of the presenters' report. I will give consideration to determine the other request the honourable member has made and in due course I will decide and let him know what the government's decision is.

**Mr. Rae:** Perhaps we will have to get it under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, whenever that is presented by the government; I do not know.

Does the minister not realize that as a consequence of the delay, for which he himself is responsible and to which he is catering, it is extremely difficult for those groups that are not covered by Bill 105 to know what the alternative is to a significant review of Bill 105? Does the minister not realize that, and also the consequences that is going to have for the consideration of Bill 105?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I understand the consequences it may have and I am very conscious of them. However, we have made it plain from the very beginning that the private sector and expanded public sector bill is going to be subject to this consultation process. It has now terminated in the sense that the hearings have taken place, and we will announce the terms of the bill as quickly as we can. I am very conscious of the observation the honourable member has made. I recognize its importance to him and to others. We will try to introduce the bill as quickly as we reasonably can.

**Mr. Gillies:** My question is also to the minister responsible for women's issues. We sincerely hope he will make this consultation public and not restrict it to just his ears and those of the Premier (Mr. Peterson). Will the minister tell the House whether he will be bringing his public sector Bill 105 into this House before the end of this month for an expedient second reading, so that the bill can go out to committee consultation during the summer months?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** That is a question for the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye,) who has carriage of the public sector bill. He is absent today. I will have to draw the question to his attention.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is there a supplementary on that?

**Mr. Gillies:** The minister felt unconstrained to comment on the progress of that bill last week as far as the consultation process was concerned. I want to make it very clear to him that we are very interested in the passage of that bill and in amending it at the committee stage. That can only be done in the near future if the bill is brought to the House and can go out to committee at the end of the session. While I know the minister cannot answer for the Minister of Labour, would his advice to the Minister of Labour be that that kind of timetable be met?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I will bring the matter to the attention of the Minister of Labour.

#### PENSION FUNDS

**Mr. McClellan:** We are waiting for the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), but I



have a question for the Treasurer concerning a report by Pension Finance Associates. It is a report of pension fund earnings categorized on a one-, two- and three-year rate of return basis, ranked on the basis of earnings. Given that the first quartile has four-year annualized rates of return of 19.6 per cent earnings and that the earnings last year for the first quartile were 25.4 per cent, can the Treasurer explain why his government still continues to prefer the policy of allowing companies to steal surplus pension funds rather than to use so-called actuarial surpluses in the funds in order to provide inflation protection for pensioners?

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Am I to understand the report the honourable member has is for the next four years?

**Mr. McClellan:** No, the last four years.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** So the average for this last one for 19 per cent may explain why the teachers are somewhat dissatisfied by the investment of all of their payments into Ontario at about 12 per cent. It may be why they have brought that to my attention repeatedly.

As I have said in the House before, we are aware under the present statute and regulation of Ontario of the requirement put forward by the Pension Commission of Ontario for the presence of 125 per cent of the requirements to be on deposit. Anything over that is considered to be surplus. Under the present regulations and statutes, it is distributed by the agreement to the employers.

That is correct. The employers can, as the member says—I am not going to use the verb he uses—remove the surplus with the agreement of the Pension Commission of Ontario. I am sure the member is aware that the legislation in draft form is before the community. The people are responding to my colleague the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Kwinter) and we expect to proceed with legislation either exactly as in the draft or as amended some time in the fall.

**Mr. Rae:** I do not think he answered the member's question.

**Mr. McClellan:** No, he did not.

The rate of return for the third quartile, that is to say the pension funds that are ranked in terms of earnings between the bottom 25 and the bottom 50—these are not the top earners; it is the group between 25 per cent and 50 per cent in terms of earnings—averaged 21.3 per cent last year. These are the losers. Their four-year annualized rate of return is 17 per cent.

Given those humungous rates of return for the pension funds in this province, can the Treasurer explain to me what he meant when he said to me a few weeks ago in response to a question about indexation, "If we impose indexation on pension funds of the type that are currently established, they will simply disappear"? Surely the Treasurer must realize that with those rates of return, it is simply the course of rationality to use these funds for indexation of benefits.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** There are two things to be said. I indicated I thought that many of those pension plans would disappear because there is no law that says a company or corporation of any kind must have such a program.

**Mr. McClellan:** That is the Treasurer's second amendment.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** It may be the member's amendment. The way the law is now, there is no requirement that a pension fund be set up. There are many of them, and I think the member would be aware that in less buoyant economic times the same statute of which he is so critical required the employers to ante up the needed extra when the figures for the quartiles were somewhat less impressive than the ones he is putting before the House today.

#### RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

**Ms. Fish:** I have a question for the minister responsible for women's issues. May I ask the minister why his government has slashed funding to the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** It is really a question for the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes) under whose ministry this funding comes. I should ask the member if she would like the question referred or if she would like my observations about the question.

**Ms. Fish:** I am addressing the question to the minister responsible for women's issues because I understand a representative of the Ontario women's directorate—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**3:10 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I am prepared to say the Solicitor General, with the support of his colleagues, took the determination that was made. It is funding for a period of one year. It is funding that is provided under an agreement under which we hope there will be a co-operative review of the processes of the crisis centres and the way they admit members to their organization. It will lead, we hope, to a rejuvenated response on the part of those centres and to the



ability of government to fund them in the future. That is why we have done it.

**Ms. Fish:** The government's offer was \$200,000, down \$50,000 from the three-year commitment it had had, \$250,000 in each of three years, from the previous government. The funding will place in peril the opening of two new centres this year. It will place in peril the translation of their materials into native tongues and into the French language. I say again to the minister responsible for women's issues, with \$24 million to go to racehorses, why can his government not find an additional \$50,000 for the victims of rape in this province?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** The reality is, of course, that those assumptions are wrong. It will not place in peril the opening of any rape crisis centres in the province at all. One of the difficulties with the rape crisis centre funding arrangement is that no new centre is eligible for the funding until a year has gone by. One of the concerns of the government is that, as all funding for rape crisis centres goes through the coalition, it should make a proposal to the government that will permit the funding of its member rape crisis centres as soon as they are founded and not compel them to wait a year before funding is made available to them.

#### INCINERATORS

**Mrs. Grier:** I had hoped the Minister of the Environment might celebrate World Environment Week by laying before the House today a very clear statement of action he intended to take, but in the absence of that I will ask him a question.

The Toronto Board of Health's report pointed out the urgency of reducing dioxins and furans in our environment. The ministry's own reports have pointed out that the major contributing factor to those contaminants is incinerators. In view of that, can the minister tell us why he is allowing the addition of 15 new garbage and sewage sludge incinerators in this province at this time?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The member is aware that on Friday last week representatives of Pollution Probe met with me to outline what they felt was a good response, Toxic Fallout into the Food Basket: Dioxins and Incineration. They presented this report to me on Friday. They identified as an area of concern incinerators that might operate in the province—and some might be oncoming—and made certain recommendations. I indicated I would give very serious

consideration to them, as I always do to Pollution Probe's presentations.

The member knows that one of the difficulties we face all the time—Mr. Speaker, you would be particularly aware of this because of circumstances that affected your riding—is that every time there is a proposal for a landfill site, people say landfill is not the route to go, incineration is. When there is a proposal for incineration, the suggestion is that landfill is preferable.

We have to find the best and safest way of dealing with our problems, including a very strong recycling component. I will certainly take into consideration the representations made by Pollution Probe. I have indicated to them that, as they requested, I will get back to them in two weeks with a reply that the House will be aware of.

**Mrs. Grier:** If the minister has read the Pollution Probe document, he will know it states that only one per cent of this province's garbage is now recycled. I hope he will take that alternative strongly into account when he is reviewing their document.

The minister has continually told this House that the way to solve environmental problems is to get at the sources of the problems. Does he not agree the 15 incinerators that are mentioned are merely new sources that would contribute to the degradation of the environment?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** A list of incinerators was provided. This is the one the member is making reference to, table 3. Some of them, for instance, are going virtually nowhere. I notice, for instance, that St. Catharines is mentioned as one site. I do not think there has been much serious consideration given recently to the regional municipality of Niagara, for instance, dealing with energy from waste. That seems to have been put on the back burner. The member will recall that the impetus for this largely came from the high oil prices at the time and it seemed to be attractive. While there have been some suggestions that many of those I am looking at will want to proceed, they are well down the line.

I indicated to Pollution Probe that I am giving serious consideration to not allowing them to proceed, as they have done in Sweden. We have to get all the facts before us, because the same people who advocate the elimination of the incinerator as a potential solution also do not want us to allow further landfill sites in the province.

#### INSURANCE AGENTS

**Mr. Runciman:** In the absence of the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Kwinter), I will



direct my question to the minister responsible for women's issues. The minister may know that more than 40 per cent of part-time insurance agents are women; yet his government plans to ban part-time agents. Has the minister looked at this? If he has, what are his views on this serious matter?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I thank the honourable member for bringing the matter to my attention. I will have to consult with my colleague the Minister of Financial Institutions about it when he returns.

**Mr. Runciman:** We have been having this song all afternoon on very important issues dealing with the women of this province. The minister does not seem to be aware of many of them. I am looking for a commitment that he will not only meet with the minister, but will also attempt to drag himself and the minister into 1986 and scrap this anticompetitive, discriminatory proposal that will serve only to worsen job prospects for women.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** As there was no question in that elaborate remark, I do not think there is anything to answer. There was a bit of a speech, and it was entertaining too.

#### ELECTRIC SHOCK THERAPY

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services and concerns the use of cattle prods in our institutions for the mentally retarded. The minister must be aware that this is not, as he indicated, a short-term process, that it deals only with the behavioural symptoms of the people involved, and that even political dissenters of strong will in other lands who have had this kind of adverse behaviour therapy given to them are known to change their behaviour for short periods of time. Is the minister aware of the high rate of recidivism involved for people who have had this therapy?

A Windsor Star article on the weekend that gives the Cedar Springs point of view on all this, and one would presume uses its best examples, tells the story of a man named David, who, after being in for many months of behaviour modification with the use of electric shock, was back after only one month in the community in 1984. They are hoping to be able to release him again some time this year. Does the minister have any evidence at all that this does anything more than change behaviour for a brief period of time? Does he have any evidence that it gets to the causes of the difficulty and is therefore real therapy?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** As was indicated earlier, the whole purpose of the review is to respond to the very questions the honourable member is raising. I will go back to the specific instance the member referred to. He will recall from the article that this young man came to the centre after having been in a straitjacket for four years and that he had passed from facility to facility, each trying to help him with his self-abusive problems. He is now out of that straitjacket.

I repeat that I am not in favour of the shocking technique. I have said that clearly. I have also said we are conducting a review to find out whether it produces the results that have been claimed and whether there are more appropriate ways. When that review result is in, I will take the necessary action. However, the evidence seems to indicate, and the one the member mentioned seems to be one of them, that in some cases a suitable and workable alternative has not been found up to this time.

**3:20 p.m.**

**Mr. R. F. Johnston:** I will not read into the record the incredible excesses that are involved in that case, but I will ask a very particular question about Durham Centre's closing, a place where, as I understand it from the Oshawa papers today, at least four people in that institution are receiving shock therapy at this point. What happens when it closes? It is supposed to close this weekend, but there are still some 30 patients left. Where are those patients going to go? Are they going to go back to D'Arcy Place, which prohibits this type of treatment? Is the minister going to force D'Arcy Place to give this treatment or is he going to ship these people to Cedar Springs where they can continue shock treatment?

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** The entire purpose of the program is to assist people to the point of independence and autonomy where they are able to go out and live in the community. In the examples the honourable member mentioned earlier, that is precisely what has happened and what will continue to happen. The member knows the people who are in Durham right now are being prepared to move out into the community. Only when there is a suitable place for those people to go out into the community will they be released from Durham.

The member indicated that some people in Durham are going to D'Arcy, which does not use this procedure. If it were required to be continued, they would not go to D'Arcy. They will be assisted until they are ready to go into the community.



## EXTRA BILLING

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I want to advise the House today in relation to a question that was asked last week by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) with respect to a report on the circumstances of the two-day job action by Ontario physicians. I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition, who is not here, but I think this is an important enough issue for me to provide this information for members now.

First, no serious problem regarding patient care was reported and inpatient services were maintained in all Ontario hospitals. In general, there was no significant increase in—

**Mr. Harris:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have no objection to reverting to statements if that is what the minister wants us to do. He is giving out information after the questions have been asked. How can this possibly be an answer to a question?

**The Deputy Speaker:** I understand there was an undertaking by the Minister of Health to the Leader of the Opposition to answer the question today. I am assuming it is a relatively short answer; otherwise it should have been put in under statements. It is an answer to a question.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I tried to save some time by handling it through my statement. There were fewer than 30 telephone calls regarding the job action received by my ministry's public information centre over the two-day period. Only one had to be referred to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Finally, the college reported to the ministry that it had not identified any serious problems in the provision of medical services over those two days.

**Mr. Rae:** Supplementary.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I believe the question was put by the—

**Mr. Rae:** No. It was not. With great respect to the minister, I put the question to the minister on Thursday relating specifically to the reporting mechanisms in place and how many surgeries were cancelled. If you look at Hansard for Thursday, you will see I asked that question specifically.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The minister did indicate to the chair in a note that he believed it was the Leader of the Opposition. There was some doubt.

**Mr. Rae:** In that question on Thursday, I specifically asked the minister whether he could tell us how many cancer-related surgeries were cancelled on Thursday and Friday on a hospital-

by-hospital basis. The minister has not provided us with that information. From published press reports, we know there was at least one, which I read about in the Toronto Star, and others were reported in other local newspapers.

Can the minister give us that information? In his view, is it appropriate professional conduct in the case of patients who have had cancer surgery scheduled to have that surgery cancelled because of action being taken by doctors in this regard?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** In relation to the two questions, first, I do not have the information assembled at this point with respect to hospital-by-hospital data. I do have some information which the member has seen reported, but my information from contacting the hospitals has been that most of the procedures that were cancelled on Thursday and Friday were rescheduled very quickly thereafter; at least a date was provided. I do not have more information than that.

I do know efforts were made on the part of those who were suggesting cancellation or postponement of surgery to give alternative dates and that patient consideration was involved in decisions wherein cancellation was made.

[Later]

**Mr. Harris:** Mr. Speaker, there may be several points of order arising, but I have one. I refer to the Hansard of Thursday, May 29, 1986. The member for York South (Mr. Rae) asked a question of the Minister of Health. There were several allegations that it was asked by our leader, and I was accused of not knowing what was going on. In spite of the fact that it was not our leader, I do know what was going on.

This is the response from the Minister of Health: "We will be getting that information. In fact, some initial contacts were made around noon hour today; the information was not available for me to bring to the House. On Monday, I will provide the information by way of a statement."

I suggested to you, Mr. Speaker, that it was a statement and that it should be part of statements. I said I would revert to statements but the time should not come out of question period. I ask you to add two minutes to question period so we can finish the business of the day.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I do thank the member for his point of order. I will look into it. I was advised by the minister that it was in response to a question. I will look at Hansard to establish whether it is a statement, a response to a statement or a response to a question.



### DRUG BENEFIT FORMULARY

**Mr. Leluk:** My question is for the Minister of Health. The minister told this House last November, some seven months ago, that he could not publish a new Drug Benefit Formulary because of pending litigation. Since the Divisional Court gave the green light to his ministry some seven weeks ago, why does the minister continue to delay? Does the minister realize that this delay is substantially costing the Treasury, is threatening the survival of small independent community pharmacies and is costing Ontario consumers? Does the minister realize that he is restricting the advent of new beneficial drugs because of his delay? Does he enjoy playing with the health and lives of our seniors?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** First, we are not playing with the health and lives of seniors in this province. The member will know we have been able to make arrangements, if medications are required, to proceed by special authorization. I think the gentleman would want to check the basis on which he makes the final remark.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. The member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) and the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) are making enough noise that I cannot hear the reply.

**Miss Stephenson:** It was the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio).

**The Deputy Speaker:** Will you please be quiet while the minister gives his reply?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** In relation to that litigation, the gentleman will also know there was a request for leave to appeal and other things have intervened since the court decision was given. In relation to looking at printing a new formulary, we have requested some more information with respect to marketing. I have spoken, actually this morning and on other occasions, to pharmacists with respect to some of the areas in which they can provide me with information as to where they have suffered losses.

**Mr. Wildman:** Let us proceed with the legislation.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** If they want to pass it through in a hurry—

**Mr. Harris:** Last December it had to go through before Christmas.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Let us put it this way. These gentlemen do not really quite understand the legislation they are asking to be passed in a hurry, because they have not done an analysis of it. The information is being

assembled to do some work on the formulary, even though the bills are not yet in place and have not yet been proclaimed.

**Mr. Leluk:** The minister told us in November of last year that the additional cost to the Treasury for having paid inflated drug prices was some \$4 million a month. How long is the minister prepared to pay these inflated prices for drugs purchased by the government under the Ontario drug benefit plan? Will the minister assure this House that the new formulary will be published immediately, with realistic drug prices and a fair dispensing fee for pharmacists, who have gone for about two and a half years without any increase?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I cannot quite understand where this gentleman comes from because he was one of the people who spoke, not only at length but also excessively long, in reading out the series of pieces of mail which he received last fall. Now he is urging that there should be no delay and he is blaming me for the delay. That is not the case.

We have tried to shepherd this piece of legislation through our committee stages fairly quickly. Members know as well as I do that there was considerable debate on second reading. Just recently, there were extensive amendments to this legislation. We must now analyse the impact of those amendments.

It seems to me there are a number of housekeeping matters which might bear taking a look at. I will share those with all the people here before we come back to the House and provide them with an assessment of the effect of the errors and omissions of two or three words. I will share that with those people. I will also undertake that we will move as quickly as we can to deal with the problems the gentleman has outlined here this afternoon.

3:30 p.m.

### HAZARDOUS SPILL

**Ms. Gigantes:** My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Can he tell us how the Lees Avenue coal-tar environmental mess in Ottawa-Carleton managed to develop without ministry intervention that would have prevented the exposure of workers to carcinogens, the exposure of the public at the Lees Avenue transit station to carcinogens, the use of a chemical processing plant that was ordered closed in September 1985 and the exposure of children at Notre Dame des Champs school?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I have personally been in contact with the chairman of the regional



municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, and our officials have been in contact with officials of the regional municipality on an ongoing basis to discuss all matters related to this.

As the member knows, concern was expressed about the placement of the material and the manner in which it would be dealt with, that is, the separation of the contaminated oil and the water and the site to which it would be taken. She will also be aware that Gloucester township had undertaken action designed to close that site in Gloucester. That action was supposed to be in effect as of this weekend.

Navro is not dealing with it at this time, but the Tricil company is now dealing with it. The separation of the material is taking place right on site. The consulting firm M. M. Dillon is supervising that. Then the material is being taken to a site in Quebec. Those problems have been overcome, and I appreciate that people in the area have had that concern, including the member.

**Ms. Gigantes:** My question was not answered. How is it that a site that has been listed on the ministry's site inventory study since 1980 is a site where workers and the public are exposed, the material is shipped to a processing plant that should not be operating and schoolchildren are showing symptoms of illness?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** In relation to the site where the spill took place, for instance, the regional municipality purchased that site for its purposes, for the transitway. As I recall, the Lees Avenue site was an old industrial site, not a waste disposal site. At that time, the region could have looked into the history of that site. However, they had determined it was an appropriate site for their uses and decided to make use of it. This spring, it was found that the site was not without some problem. They discovered the leakage that was taking place. As a result, remedial action was taken to overcome that problem.

#### FIRE VIOLATIONS

**Mr. Sterling:** My question is to the Solicitor General. Why has the fire marshal's office not acted upon repeated complaints, deficiencies and fire violations in both the Woodstock and Ingersoll courthouses?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** I cannot give the honourable member an answer on that today. I had some comments on that issue before with regard to the public institutions inspection panel, which inspects these facilities. I have not had a chance to see the two reports that have been prepared by that panel. I will do so and report back to the member immediately.

**Mr. Sterling:** I understand this same question was asked of the Solicitor General on May 27 by some members of the press. In view of the fact that the courthouse in Woodstock does not have fire alarms, smoke detectors, fire escapes or sprinklers—

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** We do not own the courthouse.

**Mr. Sterling:** That makes it even better. If there were a fire in the basement, people on the third floor would not know about it and would have trouble getting out. Why does the Solicitor General not prosecute the landlord?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** As I said in my earlier statement, I will doublecheck that and be sure to get back to the member this week with an answer to those issues in those two centres.

#### COUNSELLING PROGRAM FOR WIFE ABUSERS

**Ms. Bryden:** I too have a question of the Solicitor General. As he knows, we face a huge problem of wife battering in this province, with estimates of up to 10 per cent. I am sure he also knows that treatment and counselling for men convicted of wife assault is a very important way of reducing its incidence.

Why has the minister not even replied to requests for funding from one of the few male counselling services operating in this province, namely, New Directions in the Ottawa-Carleton region? They wrote him on April 1 and May 1 and sent a telegram on April 14. They have had to cut their program in half, and they may even fold by the end of this month without help from his ministry. When will he meet with them?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** The issue is being reviewed by staff and myself to look at the service provided by that organization. We will be responding to them.

The matter of providing programming for those who perpetrate the assaults is something we have been studying in general in the ministry, because it does provide an opportunity to alleviate some of that great hazard of abuse that has been brought upon a segment of our society.

**Ms. Bryden:** All they are asking for is \$16,000, which is one fifth of their total budget; it would cover the 20 per cent of their clients who are mandated by the courts to attend counselling services. I understand the minister is now paying \$40,000 a year to the Changing Ways male counselling program in the London area, which has been very effective in rehabilitating men convicted of wife assault.



Does he not think his ministry has a responsibility to see that similar programs are provided not only in London and Ottawa but also in all other parts of the province so that judges will be encouraged to require attendance at such programs as part of probation orders?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** The merit of the program is being addressed, as I said earlier. I can be corrected by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), but I also understand it is a Ministry of Community and Social Services facility, at the moment operating under contract to the ministry. Incidentally, it is also a fairly expensive treatment in that area, costing somewhere in the vicinity of \$800 a person.

However, as I said, we are reviewing that program to see what are the most effective means of providing this type of counselling for the male population.

#### CALIFORNIA WINES

**Mr. Andrewes:** My question is of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Does he think it is appropriate that the Trillium restaurant, which is in Ontario's showcase at Expo 86, should be promoting and selling the wines of the state of California?

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I certainly do not think it would be appropriate. It is something I will check into to see whether we cannot change that.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I think it was a request of the local wineries.

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** Oh, I see. My good colleague tells me it was done at the request of the local wineries.

**Mr. Partington:** Would the minister do a little more than check into it? It is vital to the Ontario economy and to the pride of the Ontario wine industry. Will he see immediately that the government takes steps to prohibit further sales of California wines in the Trillium restaurant and immediately withdraw, or cause to be withdrawn, California wines from the wine list?

3:40 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I would like to direct the member's question to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley).

**The Deputy Speaker:** This is not a question within the purview of the Minister of the Environment.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** If I may, Mr. Speaker, I have special responsibility for the field of wine policy in the government of Ontario.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Carry on.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The question is—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. There is a point of order from the member for Nipissing.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** If the member does not want an answer, that is fine.

**Mr. Harris:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The question was asked of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It is an agricultural question. We get 30 different responses from over there: "That is not mine." "I will take it." "Let me run with the ball." "I am the Minister of Health today." Either they do it one way or they do it the other.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. Since all honourable members are honourable members and the Minister of the Environment did say he was in charge of the policy, then it is appropriate for the Minister of Agriculture and Food to refer the question to him.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** If the members are interested in the answer, and I know the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) and the member for Brock (Mr. Partington) are, I recall having this brought to my attention as well. I did some investigation of it because on the surface it appears to be inconsistent with what we consider to be Ontario policy.

I investigated and found out that, at the request of the wineries in this specific case, they wanted the opportunity to have California wines compared with Ontario wines to demonstrate the high quality of our wines.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Did the minister ever think to ask the growers? Is he the minister of wineries?

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** It is my understanding that this request was made. The people who work there are asked to compare the two wines. If a person orders a California wine, they will then suggest he tries an Ontario wine to show its high quality. That is the purpose of this policy, made at the request of the wineries.

**The Deputy Speaker:** That is a satisfactory answer.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** They have shown a preference for Ontario wines.

**Mr. Gillies:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: With respect, I am sure the minister's answer was out of order. Could he provide to you, Mr.



Speaker, documentation which says he is in charge of wine policy so you can fulfil the letter of the standing orders?

**The Deputy Speaker:** The minister made the statement that this was within his policy as minister. We must accept his statement as such.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

[Later]

**Mr. Gillies:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Going back to the earlier point regarding the answer given the House by the Minister of the Environment, this is not a life-or-death matter, but it is the precedent that concerns us. Standing order 29(f) states, "A minister to whom any oral question is directed may refer the question to another member who is a member of a board or commission to which the question applies."

If the Minister of the Environment has any responsibility for wine policy, it is complete news to the members of the opposition. We are worried about the precedent that any member of the government may be able to hop up and answer questions about any matter he wishes to. That troubles us because we direct questions within a minister's responsibility and do not get answers.

**The Deputy Speaker:** As I said before, I cannot allow that as a point of order. All members of the House are honourable members. When any minister states it is part of his policy as minister, we must accept that. That is not a proper point of order.

#### UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE FUND

**Mr. Allen:** I have a question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities with respect to the faculty renewal program he announced last week. Will the minister explain to us how his \$84 million to cover 500 faculty during the period of his plan will do the job that the Bovey commission estimated, with all the contingencies required, would cost \$152 million?

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** If the member for Hamilton West wants a detailed analysis of how the faculty renewal plan will work, I will be more than happy to provide him with that. We anticipate under the plan that during the course of the next five years, 500 faculty members will be hired. With some attrition rates, we have estimated—and I think our estimates are good ones—that in constant 1986 dollars the program during the period will cost \$84 million.

If the member wants to challenge the figure or wants to assess it against Bovey's, he is perfectly

free to do that. I will send him the analysis that shows how we are going to do it.

**Mr. Allen:** I will be happy to receive the analysis, but there are institutional adjustment elements, charter rights and so on built into the original plan, and the question is whether they are involved in that. Since Bovey also indicated that 900 new faculty members would be needed in the universities between 1988 and 1992 simply to maintain the faculty-student ratio in the light of the double cohort that is coming through as a result of the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions guidelines in the secondary schools, how is the minister going to cope with that crisis with his underpaid 500 new faculty members?

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** My friend suggests they are going to be underpaid. The statement I made in the House suggests that salary scales for the 500 who will be affected by the program will be set in conjunction with the Council of Ontario Universities. Obviously, it will take into consideration the pay scales of existing faculty. We are talking of 500 new faculty members who would not normally have been hired were it not for the faculty renewal program. An additional allocation of \$84 million to a program will make a significant dent in the needs identified by Bovey; in fact, it will match those needs.

My friend raised the question of the double cohort and I should take an opportunity to respond. We are tracing the double cohort and because it is now 1986, not 1984, we have far better information about how many students will come together in one year for first-year registration in our institutions. There are far fewer than was contemplated by Bovey. The analysis Bovey did was based on 1984 statistics. Our statistics indicate we will be able to cope with the double cohort with the faculty renewal program and the increments we have provided.

3:50 p.m.

#### PETITION

##### NATUROPATHY

**Mr. Polsinelli:** I have a petition signed by 90 Ontarians which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;



"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF CAMBRIDGE ACT

Mr. Barlow moved first reading of Bill Pr35, An Act respecting the Young Men's Christian Association of Cambridge.

Motion agreed to.

#### CITY OF WINDSOR ACT

Mr. D. S. Cooke moved first reading of Bill Pr6, An Act respecting the City of Windsor.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** It gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce a historic piece of legislation. This is the first municipal right-to-know legislation in the history of Ontario.

**The Deputy Speaker:** It is difficult to know if some of the people who are standing are wishing to introduce bills.

#### MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre moved first reading of Bill 48, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre:** Today I am pleased to introduce for first reading legislation that will authorize the Metropolitan Toronto council and the councils of the six area municipalities in Metropolitan Toronto to establish pension plans for the members of council and their surviving spouses and children.

I want to emphasize that these plans will be supplemental to pension plans already established under the Ontario municipal employees retirement system, which provides council members in Metropolitan Toronto with the same benefits as municipal and provincial employees.

Legislation has been requested by the Metropolitan Toronto council to make pension benefits for its council members similar to those for members of this assembly. This bill will give the metropolitan council and its six area municipalities discretion to determine what, if any,

additional pension benefits should be provided for their council members.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Although the business paper indicates we will begin with second reading of Bill 98, it has been agreed by all three parties that we will not proceed at this time with Bill 98. Therefore, I will call the second order.

House in committee of the whole.

#### HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY ACT

Consideration of Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may Charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I have provided some amendments for the other parties with respect to section 1. I believe we will be moving progressively from section 1 through to the end of the bill. There are a number of items under the definition section that I would like to see amended. I am prepared to wait for those amendments to be made until we consider amendments to sections 3a and 3b, where those definitions will be needed. That is the way we have handled the clause-by-clause stage in other committees. Do you want to handle these suggestions in that way, Mr. Chairman, or do you want to move the amendments now before we have the substantive sections?

**Mr. Chairman:** I am trying to go through this and line up the various sections you want to amend and speak to. I see new sections 3a and 3b that are being put in.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** That is correct. I can give you the list of all the sections we are looking at amending: section 1 with amendments to definitions; adding new sections 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d; changing subsection 4(1); voting against subsections 4(2), 4(4), 4(5), 4(6) and 4(7), which will not be needed if the other amendments are accepted; and adding sections 4a and 4b. That is the entire package of amendments we have provided.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt. The minister has indicated it will assist him and the discussion in this important matter if his staff are permitted to be present at the table to advise him. If there is no objection, we will have them take their places.

**Mr. Chairman:** Is it the pleasure of the committee that the minister's assistants sit at the table?



Agreed to.

4 p.m.

**Mr. Chairman:** Minister, I note your proposed amendment to subsection 4(2) is that it be struck out. The appropriate procedure would be to vote against it. The same would apply to subsections 4(4), 4(5), 4(6) and 4(7). We will leave that for now. A new section 4a is to be added, and a new section 4b.

Are there other amendments?

**Mr. Henderson:** I wish to propose amendments to sections 2 and 4.

**Mr. Chairman:** You are striking the entire section 4 and moving a new one. That is fine.

Are there any other amendments, comments or questions? Let us hear the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke). I see some amendments in front of me here. Am I correct that in these proposed amendments you wish to have an amendment to add a subsection 2(2)? You might confirm this for Hansard as I go along here.

You have a lengthy amendment to section 3 with 20 subsections. The entire section is to be struck out and a long one is to be put in its place. You also have an amendment to section 6.

Are there any other sections that members wish to discuss? If members wish to make any comments, tell us on which sections you wish to make amendments, comments or questions.

**Mr. Andrewes:** We have some amendments. We have some comments on virtually all the sections.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: If there are amendments that we have not seen, are we going to see them today? Is it the situation that he is going to speak all day and will not have to give them to us until tomorrow? I would like to know.

**Mr. Chairman:** I am sure all members will co-operate and get written amendments to the chair and to others as soon as possible. The member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) wants to put in amendments, comments, discussion or questions with regard to which specific sections? We will just list them now so we know where we are going.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I will want to reserve an opportunity to comment on all sections of the bill, but on section 2 specifically we wish to move an amendment.

**Mr. Chairman:** It is an amendment, not a comment, on section 2.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Right.

**Mr. Chairman:** I am taking some care with this, members. I hope you will bear with me, because we are on a long road and we want to know where we are going.

**Mr. Andrewes:** The other section on which we wish to move some amendments is section 4. At the moment I have only two copies, which I will offer to—

**Mr. Chairman:** Can the chair have one of those, please?

**Mr. Andrewes:** I will be delighted.

Interjections.

**Mr. Chairman:** The member for Lincoln.

**Mr. Rae:** He has disappeared.

**Mr. Breaugh:** He has disappeared and waived his right to speak. Let us proceed.

**Mr. Chairman:** I am a little bit confused. I have received from the member for Lincoln a photocopy of the original act with notes. Behind that are fully typed amendments. Am I to assume that one is simply an expansion of the other and that they are not additional amendments?

**Mr. Harris:** I will endeavour to find out for you forthwith.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you.

Do we have all the comments on sections 2 and 4, on all the sections everyone wishes to speak to?

**Mr. Lupusella:** I would like to raise a question with the minister on section 3 of Bill 94.

**Mr. Chairman:** We cannot carry anything because we are dealing with section 1. I take it everything is in and we are not going to have surprises as we go along, with somebody wishing to revert.

**Mr. Rae:** On a point of something, Mr. Chairman: Could we have some sense from the Conservative Party as to whether there will be amendments moved other than the ones we have not yet seen but which we understand were tabled today? We have had eight or nine months, a long period of time in which this has been debated. It would be helpful to everybody if we could have those amendments. I do not think it is any secret that we are all having caucus meetings tomorrow morning. To have practical discussions on those amendments, it would be useful for us to have them and to have some assurance that will be it.

**Mr. Harris:** We will endeavour to have the answer for the member, if not all the amendments. My colleague and our critic, the member for Lincoln, will be back in about two minutes and I think he can give that information.



Some of our amendments or amendments to amendments arise from amendments we did not get until very late in the process, for example, on Thursday. I guess we were supposed to caucus instead of listening to Bishop Tutu, but regrettably, that is not the way our party works. I apologize that there may be some that members have not had an opportunity to—

**Mr. Chairman:** I point out to the House leader it is not necessary to apologize.

**Mr. Harris:** I do not mind apologizing. With great respect, we will always attempt to have our amendments out as early as we can and as soon as we can. I offer our apologies. However, I am quite certain the member for Lincoln will be in these very chambers within the next minute or two, and he could respond more fully.

**Mr. Chairman:** We may have a long road here. It would simply be more convenient for all concerned if people would get proposed amendments in front of the chair and the other parties as soon as possible. It means things will go in a little more orderly fashion.

**4:10 p.m.**

On section 1:

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I indicated earlier that I am prepared to move the amendment now or, if it were the wish of the committee, we might review the clause as it stands now, see whether the substantive section is passed and then come back to section 1 to move the amendment of definitions which would be needed under sections 3a and 3b.

**Mr. Chairman:** What is the substantive section?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Sections 3a and 3b, which would need these definitions.

**Mr. Chairman:** Is it the pleasure of the committee that we go to sections 3a and 3b, see how those are dealt with by the committee and then revert to section 1, if necessary? Agreed?

**Mr. Breaugh:** Agreed.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Hold on.

**Mr. McClellan:** Do you want to run that past us again?

**Mr. Chairman:** The minister's amendment to section 1, which is the definitions section, is contingent upon the success or failure of his amendments to add new sections 3a and 3b. If one does carry, he wishes to revert and amend definitions. If it does not, it is unnecessary to revert to section 1, the definitions section.

The minister is asking whether we can deal with his sections 3a and 3b before we come back

to section 1. However, there are others who wish to amend section 2, and section 2 should be taken first. Therefore, all we are asking is, can we revert to section 1, the definitions section, after dealing with new sections 3a and 3b?

**Mr. McClellan:** Why do we not just stand down section 1 and start with section 2?

**Mr. Chairman:** Is that agreed?

Section 1 stood down.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall we carry on to section 2? We have amendments not only from the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) but also from the member for Lincoln. Without having looked at the two, the member for Humber's should come first.

**Mr. Henderson:** I am more or less organized to propose my amendments to section 2 and section 4 at the same time, Mr. Chairman. Would you prefer that I not do that? I do not know that it will matter too much to me. Would you prefer that I do section 2 now and then section 4 later?

**Mr. Chairman:** Yes. We will do them in order.

On section 2:

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Henderson moves that section 2 of Bill 94 be struck out and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

"(1) A physician or an optometrist who does not submit accounts directly to the plan under section 21 or 22 of the Health Insurance Act or a dentist shall not charge any patient,

"(a) over the age of 65 years;

"(b) receiving general welfare assistance or family benefit allowance;

"(c) receiving benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act and who has no other source of earned income;

"(d) who is a member of a group prescribed by regulation or who meets conditions prescribed by regulation; or

"(e) for a service rendered in a hospital emergency department or for such other service as is prescribed by regulation, "more or accept payment for more than the amount payable under the plan for rendering an insured service to an insured person."

"(2) Except as prohibited in subsection (1), a physician or an optometrist who does not submit accounts directly to the plan under section 21 or 22 of the Health Insurance Act or a dentist may charge an amount not to exceed the amount provided for in his or her professional association's schedule of fees provided that,

"(a) the practitioner is billing for services rendered while practising in an area, hospital or



clinic designated by regulations where more than 50 per cent of the practitioners in the same field of practice or specialty do not bill or accept payment for more than the amount payable under the plan for rendering an insured service to an insured person; or

“(b) the practitioner, in each of the previous three consecutive months, billed more than 50 per cent of his or her monthly billings on the basis of the amounts payable under the plan for rendering insured services to insured persons; or

“(c) the practitioner has been granted dispensation from the application of the subsection by the Minister of Health.

“(3) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,

“(a) prescribing groups for the purpose of clause (1)(d);

“(b) prescribing conditions for the purpose of clause (1)(d);

“(c) prescribing services for the purpose of clause (1)(e);

“(d) designating areas, hospitals and clinics for the purpose of clause (2)(a); and

“(e) prescribing methods of determining whether any charge or billing is in respect of services rendered in a particular area, hospital or clinic.

“(4) The minister may designate, on the recommendation of the appropriate regional health council, practitioners for the purpose of clause (2)(c) and may exempt a practitioner from the fee limit of the amount provided for in his or her professional association's schedule of fees as specified in subsection (2).”

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Chairman, do I speak now?

**Mr. Chairman:** Yes, you may discuss your amendments and the reasons for them and make any comments. I remind the members that there is no restriction on speaking more than once in the committee of the whole House.

**Mr. Henderson:** I rise to offer views and propose amendments to Bill 94, particularly to section 2, so as to place before my legislative colleagues an option I am convinced they do not hold at this moment, preceding my amendments. It is an option to vote for measures that will ensure accessibility to health care services and end the problems of extra billing, yet hold out a reasonable prospect of finding enough acceptance with my physician colleagues to end the increasingly bitter standoff between physicians and the government.

I speak as a private member and not for the government. Many have asked how I will vote

when Bill 94 comes before the Legislature for third reading. I have found that to be a very vexing decision to try to make, for it involves selecting between two very negative options.

On the one hand, I do not wish to vote against a bill put forward by a minister of the government of which I am a part, a colleague within the party under whose banner I ran for elected office a little more than one year ago.

On the other hand, I cannot vote for a bill which I believe to be a bad one in its present form. It is a bill whose measures, in my view, will not solve the problems they purport to address and a bill conceived, in my view, out of an insufficient exploration and understanding of those problems. Simplistic solutions rarely solve complex problems. In the long term, simplistic solutions fail, sometimes tragically and sometimes horrendously. Physicians who deal day by day in life-or-death matters know that only too well.

**4:20 p.m.**

Happily, the decision to return Bill 94 to the committee of the whole House for clause-by-clause examination eases my dilemma. I propose first to invite other members of this Legislature to ask themselves whether they would not wish to join with me in seeking a reasoned solution to the problems of extra billing and a reasoned approach to the assurance of accessibility to health care services and to the avoidance of a two-tiered approach to delivery of health care services.

I therefore put forward amendments that will, in my view, achieve those objectives and meet the campaign promise of my party a little more than a year ago. With goodwill in the eye of the beholder, these amendments will also, in my view, satisfy the requirements of the Liberal-New Democratic Party accord in the sense that I shall describe. Perhaps not every member will agree with me about this, but I will put forward my view.

The amendments, if adopted by this Legislature, would also do much to attenuate or eliminate the bitter dispute that has developed in Ontario between government and physicians, the chief providers of health care services, upon whose goodwill we depend to make the health care system work.

I am no newcomer to this matter of health care accessibility. I have clinical experience in public hospitals, government hospitals, academic and university hospitals, private practice and even medical missionary work. I have been opted out, opted in and salaried. I am trained in general practice, public health administration, preven-



tive medicine, psychiatry, psychoanalysis and medical economics. I have strong points of view based on training, experience and perhaps a little wisdom. Those points of view have made it extraordinarily difficult for me to remain silent in the face of what I consider to be, in its present form, an unwise bill.

It is not so much the aims or the principles of Bill 94 that fail as certain of its specific provisions. One can admire the intent of prohibition, knowing what human suffering follows on alcohol addiction, yet not favour prohibition as the solution. I agree, as do most physicians and, incidentally, as does the Ontario Medical Association, that problems in the practice of extra billing need to be addressed. I agree that accessibility to medical treatment must be assured and that a two-tiered system of service delivery should be avoided. Those principles are not in dispute, yet there is a dispute of growing rancour and danger occasioned by this bill.

I wish to be critical of no one. I wish and I seek to embarrass no one. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), my Liberal caucus colleagues and my friends in the NDP caucus are to be commended for their courage in tackling the question of health care accessibility and the problems of extra billing with vigour and determination.

Health care services are too important for partisan rhetoric. I have often wished we could find some way to set aside our partisan affiliations in our approach to Bill 94 and simply proceed as a collective of concerned legislators. I wish we could vote, if votes be required, on the basis of conscience, and I dare to challenge House leaders and party leaders to allow a free vote on the amendments I have placed and shall place.

I hope we legislators and the physicians, who are in one sense our colleagues and even our partners in the delivery of health care services, will continue to meet, dialogue, reason and, if possible, negotiate a solution together.

**Mr. McClellan:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: Just so there is no confusion in the member's mind, my colleagues in the New Democratic Party intend to vote on this bill according to their consciences.

**Mr. Chairman:** That is not a point of order.

**Mr. Henderson:** All of us agree we should avoid a two-tiered system of health care, yet the Minister of Health and even the Premier have suggested that physicians who extra bill are not generally better at what they do than physicians

who charge the Ontario health insurance plan rate.

Accordingly, I am not convinced the wish of some patients to be free to select physicians who work at arm's length from the state and who may charge a little more for their services and the wish of some physicians to contract the amount of their fee on an individual basis with their patients necessarily lead to a two-tiered system of health care. Indeed, in my view, that minority of patients and that minority of physicians comprise a nonvisible minority group whose rights and democratic freedoms must be assured by a government that hopes to preserve its credibility in a free state like Canada.

It is necessary to ensure that patients really do have a choice in this matter of choosing what kind of physician they wish to consult. I believe that can be done easily enough without risking a serious breakdown of the health care system and without major, long-lasting rancour between physicians and government.

I believe my proposed amendment to section 2, along with my proposed amendment to section 4, which will be presented later, will go a long way to achieving those objectives. These amendments will establish that no senior citizen and no low-income Ontarian can pay more than the OHIP rate for an insured service. In addition—

**Mr. Chairman:** Order. I point out that the staff who are on the floor should remain in their seats except for ingress to and egress from the chamber.

**Mr. Henderson:** No patient, regardless of age and regardless of income, will have to pay more than the OHIP rate for emergency treatment, emergency surgery or any treatment in a hospital emergency department.

Furthermore, by these amendments, a physician cannot charge more than the OHIP rate for a service performed in any office, clinic or hospital unless at least half the physicians in that office, clinic or hospital are opted in, or unless at least half the billings of the physician performing the treatment have been submitted at the OHIP rate for the previous three consecutive months. To preserve flexibility, occasional exceptions to that guideline may be granted under unusual circumstances by special dispensation from the Minister of Health.

Whenever a practitioner bills more than the OHIP rate, his fee cannot exceed the rate provided for in his or her professional association's schedule of fees except again by special dispensation from the Minister of Health.



Currently, with physicians fully at liberty to opt in or out of the plan as they please, 88 per cent of physicians in Ontario are fully opted in and 97 per cent are at least partly opted in. Yet there is a distribution problem because, in a few areas of the province and in a few fields of medicine, too many physicians may be opted out and bill more than the OHIP rate. My amendments would serve to correct that distribution problem and might well raise the overall figures, province-wide, to 95 per cent of physicians fully opted in and 98 or 99 per cent of physicians at least partly opted in.

These amendments ensure accessibility, yet respect the insistence of my medical colleagues on the preservation of their professional freedom on their own and their patients' behalf. To me and to most physicians, professional freedom on our own and our patients' behalf is as deeply valued as are ethical and moral values on such matters as right to life, freedom of choice and issues of capital punishment to many citizens and many legislators.

No government should underestimate the vigour with which that professional freedom will be defended. The amendments follow a principle that I set forth in my remarks in the Legislature on January 28, that we should go as far we can towards solving problems of accessibility by negotiation and agreement and then see how much of a problem still remains and decide later whether coercive legislation is required and at what price in health care excellence.

**4:30 p.m.**

Much has been made of the \$50 million or so in transfer payments for health care that the federal government now withholds from Ontario each year. The constitutionality of the legislation enabling that withholding has yet to be established. I hope that by the amendments I propose the federal government can be persuaded to free up the withheld funding, for surely it rightfully belongs to the taxpayers of Ontario for their health care.

However, should Ottawa persist in withholding health care funding from Ontarians, I doubt very much whether most Ontarians care whether health care is funded by Ottawa or by Queen's Park. What they do care about is fair taxation. If health care must be funded entirely from Queen's Park, without the federal transfer payments, the people of Ontario will rightly demand that a corresponding downward adjustment be made in the level of federal income tax they have to pay.

Some will foresee or pretend to foresee enforcement problems with the amendments I propose. Surely, if goodwill can prevail, both

sides will find ways to work together to solve new problems. I believe good compliance with agreed-upon guidelines can be achieved by a combination of the honour system, peer pressure and complaint reporting to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

I will state in order what I feel to be some further advantages of the amendments and the model I have proposed.

1. These amendments accord with the liberal and democratic principles of negotiation, flexibility, compromise, respect for individuals and respect for minorities. The current measures of Bill 94, in my view, do not. These amendments also respect personal and professional freedom. They propose a democratic solution, not an imposed solution. They accord with our broader notion of a mixed economy, blending state concern with personal freedom.

2. These amendments solve the problems of extra billing and stop there. They offer a pragmatic approach that preserves goodwill, or is likely to do so, and involves minimal or even virtually no use of power to achieve a desired goal.

3. These amendments ensure that extra billing will function in a way that is comparable to a progressive tax, with an advantage on the side of the consumer. Those who can afford to pay more and, in the case of this model and these amendments, who choose to pay more may do so. Those of limited means pay less or not at all. In either case, excellence of care is facilitated.

4. These amendments will defuse the tension and rancour of future negotiations between government and physicians on the matter of the OHIP tariff at a time when the provincial Treasury is already strained by high deficits and heavy demands for social expenditure. A safety-valve advantage of extra billing is preserved, but so are guaranteed accessibility to service and the avoidance of a two-tiered system of health care.

5. These amendments respect the honour and dignity of senior citizens, who are assured of access to all services at OHIP rates. That is as it should be. To our senior citizens, we owe the legacy that is ours through the fruits of their industry and their commitment to personal freedom and democratic government. To them, surely, we owe comfort and excellence in care during their senior years.

6. Persons of limited financial means are protected from financial hardship or compromised service and are spared the personal humiliation of a means assessment. Rhetoric



about examining the pocketbook before examining the patient can be allowed to subsidize.

7. The amendments I propose provide for measures that should be relatively easy to administer, especially if they are perceived by both sides as fair and equitable. Self-regulation through the honour system can be backed up by complaint-based enforcement by the college of physicians and the penalty I shall propose later in amending section 4, the penalty of enforced opting in, is fair, appropriate and straightforward.

8. These amendments substitute a negotiable middle ground for non-negotiable polarities.

9. These amendments construct a win-win rather than a win-lose scenario for both parties in a highly polarized and even bitter standoff between physicians and government.

They allow the government to fulfil its promise to end the problem of extra billing. When politicians speak of eradicating something, they mean eradicating it in so far as it hurts people. When we declare war on poverty, for example, we are not talking about the vows of poverty taken by a monastic order or a religious group. We mean the kind of poverty from which people cannot escape, the kind of poverty that hurts people, families and children.

Similarly, when my colleagues and I campaigned a year ago last April on the basis that we would negotiate to try to end extra billing, I believe we meant extra billing in so far as extra billing hurts people. I hope we did not have in mind infringing on the democratic right of some citizens to contract services from some practitioners on an individual basis in a way that would cause injury to no one.

By the guidelines I propose, the Premier will have fulfilled his promise to ensure accessibility to health care, to avoid a two-tiered system of health care and to negotiate with physicians to end the problems of extra billing. He will also have fulfilled his commitments under the Liberal-NDP accord.

The physicians of Ontario will have preserved their professional freedom and their professional autonomy. They will have preserved the arm's-length relationship from politicians and government that they and I believe crucial to the continued provision of excellence in health care services.

10. The amendments I propose avoid the difficult and potentially divisive idea of setting up a mechanism to allow extra billing by special categories of practitioners, such as those with

special training, special experience, special needs or special seniority.

11. These amendments similarly avoid the equally divisive and potentially contentious idea of a two-tiered OHIP tariff whereby special categories of practitioners would receive a higher fee through OHIP. To avoid such a measure surely seems appropriate at a time when the already strained provincial Treasury can ill afford such largess. The more recent government proposal of an excellence fund suffers from the same disadvantages and is therefore equally ill advised, in my view.

12. To preserve at least in some measure the physician's right to opt out and to negotiate directly a fee with a patient provides a safety valve that may well defuse future OHIP fee negotiations. Conversely, physician conscription into the provincial plan will charge up OHIP fee negotiations and render them fractious and confrontational as physicians realize they are negotiating, under the thumb, their only possible means of income. Their demands on the provincial Treasury will be greater and their mood more bullish.

13. If these amendments can help lay the groundwork for successful physician-government negotiations on accessibility and extra billing, they shall have ended withdrawals of physicians' services, including a possible province-wide withdrawal for an indefinite period of nonemergency physicians' services.

**4:40 p.m.**

Another Liberal, well known to all of us, once said the state has no place in the bedrooms of the nation. I would like to add that the state must carefully limit its place in the clinical consulting rooms of patients and their physicians. About 88 per cent of physicians in Ontario are entirely opted in. About 96 per cent of services to patients are billed to OHIP on an opted-in basis, and only about three per cent of physicians are entirely opted out for all of their practice.

There is, to be sure, a distribution problem of opted-out physicians. They are concentrated in certain cities, in certain fields, in certain offices and in certain hospitals. My amendments would correct those distribution problems, because every area of Ontario would have at a minimum more than half its clinical services on an opted-in basis in every field of practice.

Furthermore, adoption of these proposals would reduce overall rates of opting out. If these measures were adopted, perhaps 95 per cent of physicians would be entirely opted in, perhaps 98 per cent of services would be billed on an



opted-in basis and perhaps one and a half per cent of physicians would be entirely opted out. If those kinds of figures could be achieved in Ontario, would there be an accessibility problem to health care, and would extra billing be a problem?

Men and women who feel secure in their administrative mandates are able to be flexible. Men and women who feel insecure often find flexibility more difficult. Solutions negotiated in an atmosphere of relative goodwill are always better than imposed arrangements. I urge flexibility towards a negotiated outcome, and I urge my colleagues to feel secure enough to do that.

In the Legislature on January 28, I expressed confidence that wisdom would prevail in the end. I believe I have outlined, through this amendment to section 2, a mechanism whereby a negotiated solution can succeed. I will propose an amendment to section 4 in due course, and I will have a few words to say about that.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Does the minister have a response?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The government will not be supporting the amendments put by the member for Humber for the various reasons we have suggested in previous public statements with respect to limited response to the need to end extra billing. Although the member seems to think this will deal with the problem of extra billing, it will not deal with that problem at all. In its general sense, it does not comply with the intent of the Canada Health Act and does not address the problems addressed by the legislation I have introduced. As a result, we will not be supporting these suggested amendments.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Does the member for Humber wish to comment?

**Mr. Henderson:** I do not think I need to say much more. The minister and I have different views. I have spoken to my amendments, and I believe they will solve the problems in the ways I have indicated.

**Mr. Andrewes:** We will be supporting the amendments of the member for Humber. We do so because they very much embody the spirit of the amendments we have proposed. I, like some of my other colleagues in this House, can count; so it is quite clear the member for Humber's amendments will not carry.

We will be putting subsequent amendments, for which we will solicit the members' support and argue in favour, particularly because in our view they address in a legislative framework much of the work that has been done and much of

the progress that has been made—if the minister will allow me that word. I am not sure he would.

If I might use the word "progress," I would say the progress that has been made during the past five to six months on negotiations between the government and the Ontario Medical Association has come about because the OMA has brought to the negotiating table a series of proposals that goes a long way to addressing the principles embodied in Bill 94.

The minister has said to us that the final proposal of the OMA, that of providing a service anywhere in the province at any time at the prescribed OHIP fee, would not be sufficient to meet the principles embodied in Bill 94. He said this because he has given us an indication that this kind of proposal would leave the health care system in Ontario with a two-tiered aspect.

I say to the minister only that it is our feeling and our argument that the amendments proposed by the member for Humber, which embody the spirit of the amendments we will be proposing, are clearly an indication in this legislative framework that one side at the negotiating table has moved progressively towards a solution.

The minister has offered us some amendments on the part of the government. Those amendments, of course, embody the proposed penalty that the original Bill 94 established. We can only assume that those are the legislative framework for the progress the government has brought to the negotiating table.

It seems to me and to members of our caucus, and I am sure to the member for Humber, the negotiations that were undertaken were made in an attempt to resolve this issue before the issue itself jeopardized an effective health care system in Ontario. Yet although the OMA has progressively moved towards a solution to that problem, we cannot say the same for the government.

The member for Humber used the expression, "Simplistic solutions are not sufficient." Clearly, although the legislative content of Bill 94 is full of the usual phrases that are required of a legal document, it offers a simplistic solution to a very complicated issue. It says to a group of medical practitioners in this province that the government has taken the position that it is opposed in principle to a long-standing agreement that was reached with medical practitioners many years ago and now proposes to terminate that agreement to come into line with a federal statute, while at the same time it has offered to negotiate an end to the practice to satisfy that same federal statute.



4:50 p.m.

Clearly, I come back to my point that the simplistic solution offered to this complicated problem is the legislation itself; that a real and effective solution to this complicated problem would be for both sides to sit down quietly at a table and come to some reconciliation.

If, in the good judgement of those much wiser than I and learned in the law, that reconciliation does not appear to be in line with the federal statute, perhaps then it is obligatory on the part of the government, which has reached a reasonable conclusion to the discussion, or on both sides, if they feel they have reached a reasonable conclusion to the discussion, to go to that same federal government and say, "This is what we propose to do."

There have been indications in various documents that have been floated out by the government of Canada recently, and more specifically in the Nielsen report, that the federal government has some concerns about the position the Canada Health Act has taken. One of those concerns is that it inflicts upon the province a level of inflexibility in determining its relationship with medical practitioners. The federal government has given an opening to the Minister of Health and his colleagues to come to it with a position they might argue that would embody a reasonable compromise in the dispute currently raging between the government and the doctors in Ontario.

The member for Humber has indicated the health care system is too important to be lost in political rhetoric. I could not agree more. What we have in this bill is a legislative mandate undertaken by the Liberal Party in its campaign of last March and April, a campaign that also saw the New Democratic Party consistently—I must give it credit—as it has in the past, arguing an end to the practice of extra billing. In the following days, the accord, the pact between the two parties, was undertaken, committing the Liberal government to follow through not only on its election promise but also on its commitment to the NDP.

There has been a cloud of political rhetoric around this legislation, a cloud that has hidden the real issue. If we were to stand in this House for months on end debating this legislation, which is not our intention in our presentation here, we would not compromise the partisanship of the positions taken to this time. We would probably only harden those positions.

Yet this is a piece of legislation that in our view deserves the time and the consideration of every

member in this Legislature. We join in this debate and look forward to the participation of as many members as can make a substantive contribution, not in the name of partisan rhetoric but in the name of trying to convince those who might wish to be convinced, those whose minds might be open enough to be convinced and those who might agree with the member for Humber when he suggests that a vote in this chamber on this important issue should be taken as a matter of conscience and that we do so after hearing the very important view of all its members.

We talk about dialogue, reasoned discussion and negotiation. It is not in our self-interest as a political party that we seek dialogue, reasoned discussion or negotiation. It is in the interest of the nearly nine million people in this province who are dependent upon the medical practitioners to deliver health care services to them effectively, efficiently and compassionately at a level of excellence that has been a tradition to those who have practised that profession in Ontario.

I mentioned at the outset that we will be supporting the amendments of the member for Humber. If these amendments fail, then we will be proposing our own amendments to section 2. I hope the member for Humber will have some success between now and the time this vote is held on this important issue to convince his colleagues to join with us in supporting his amendments.

**Mr. Henderson:** It is gratifying to know these amendments will have some support. I only learned of this just now when the honourable member advised the House that he and his colleagues would support these amendments. I truly believe these amendments would solve the problems and could find a measure of acceptance with physicians. I truly believe the acceptance of physicians of whatever approach we wish to take to the problems of extra billing will be very important to the future of the health care system and to good relations and harmony between physicians and government.

I do not know that I can hold out too much prospect of convincing many of my colleagues on this side of the House to support them too, but it is a nice idea. I wish they would.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** It will come as no surprise that our party will not be supporting this amendment. The member's amendment is just the Ontario Medical Association's position. He has accepted the OMA's position hook, line and sinker, as have the Tories.



I feel very strongly that on a matter of principle such as this, if the member cannot agree with his own party, he should accept the consequences of disagreeing with his party on a major matter of principle. The consequences are clear. He should either sit as an independent in this Legislature or cross the floor and join the Conservatives.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order.

**5 p.m.**

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I can understand the reluctance of some of the Tories. One doctor in a caucus is enough. I can agree with that.

After several weeks of public hearings, after listening to debate on this for many years, I find it amazing that anyone could possibly support the OMA position or that of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman). I know this is similar to the position the Leader of the Opposition put forward on the first day of public hearings, but this puts medicare back into the prospect of charity medicine.

All this simply says is that if a patient wants to have Ontario health insurance plan coverage or have payment of doctors at OHIP rates, he or she must go to the doctor and say, "Dr. So-and-so, I am on unemployment insurance," or say "I am on welfare" or "I am a senior citizen," and beg for OHIP rates. That is what this kind of an amendment puts forward. The member for Humber said here today that his amendment is going to solve the problem. The reality is it would set back medicare in Ontario to the 1950s. It would bring back the concept of charity medicine built in as a principle of the Ontario health insurance plan.

I find it amazing that kind of amendment would be even presented in the Legislature. However, after hearing the many doctors who made presentations in front of the committee, I think there is something to what Stanley Knowles used to say in the federal House, which was that anyone who has a huge income begins at times to lose touch with ordinary people in this province or in this country. The reality is that many of the doctors who appeared before the committee, and the member for Humber is obviously in the same category, have not understood what the principle of medicare is all about in this province and this country. We in this party, and the vast majority of the people in this province, are not prepared to put medicare back into the context of a charity program. He should understand that. If he understood that principle and how dearly that principle is held by the people of this province, he would never have moved such an amendment.

This proposal that he has put forward today is not unlike the proposal put forward by the Ontario Medical Association in 1978, I believe it was, when an agreement was worked out between the then minister, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), and the Ontario Medical Association whereby all services in hospitals were supposed to be provided at opted-in rates. Even if one accepted the principle of charity medicine, why would we think that any kind of an agreement such as this would work, since we know the agreement the Ontario Medical Association committed itself to with the member for Don Mills was never lived up to. It was never lived up to by a large number of practitioners in this province.

The Conservative Party puts all the blame on the government for negotiation. How can one possibly negotiate a principle? The principle is a black-and-white matter. Either one supports the idea of universal accessibility with no indication and no discussion about finances when one goes to see a practitioner or a doctor in this province or one does not accept that principle. One cannot negotiate that principle. One can negotiate the implementation of that principle and how a fee schedule is to be worked out. We have put forward what I think is a very positive proposal for a negotiating process, but the principle of either supporting or opposing extra billing is something that cannot be negotiated. That is what this party said when this process began several weeks and months ago. That is why we felt very strongly that we could have proceeded with this bill many weeks ago and avoided many millions of dollars of extra billing.

There has been no progress in negotiation, not because the Ontario Medical Association is a bunch of evil people and the government is an evil body, but because we cannot negotiate a principle. The principle is there. The majority of the people of this province support the principle of universal and equal accessibility, and the word "equal" is very important. The member for Humber's principle or amendment does not accept equal accessibility for all people in this province.

I hope we will have a quick vote on this amendment. I hope we can set this aside and deal with the other types of matters in this legislation, such as the negotiating process, so we can finalize Bill 94 very quickly. Every minute and every hour we speak costs thousands of dollars. In fact, for every week that this bill goes on, there is \$1.1 million worth of extra billing. It is incumbent upon us all to say that the people of



this province have passed judgement. They want Bill 94 passed. As responsible legislators, we should pass it very quickly.

**Mr. Henderson:** I have to reply to that one. I was tempted on a couple of occasions to reach for a point of order or a point of privilege, but I was able to restrain myself. I would submit that what I put forward was not at all the position of the Ontario Medical Association.

I believe and know that many physicians and many of my colleagues in the OMA not only would object, but would object rather vigorously to some of the proposals I have put forward. The member must know this. I think he is mounting rhetoric in the way the member for Lincoln and I both have talked about, mounting rhetoric for the sake of rhetoric.

I cannot believe the member for Windsor-Riverside honestly has the view that what I put forward in my amendment to section 2 is the view of the OMA. He is factually wrong on that. The amendment I put forward differs from the OMA position in that I proposed a limitation should be provided by the professional association of the physician, the optometrist or the dentist.

It may be true that the professional association can, in turn, raise the fees if it so chooses, but it is fair to say that it would be under tremendous pressure from the government and the Minister of Health not to do so. That pressure could have some effect. Therefore, I believe I introduced a very real safeguard in the process of proposing an amendment to that section.

My proposal of a 50 per cent limit on opting out in a particular area before any physician can opt out, given that there is already an 88 per cent opted-in ratio, provides a real safeguard to the regional maldistribution of opted-out physicians. It would ensure that well over half, but for the most part 80, 85, 90, 95 or 100 per cent, of physicians in a particular area would be opted in and billing at the rate of the Ontario health insurance plan. That is not tokenism; that is a significant gesture in the direction of ensuring that patients will have a choice in the matter, and as far as I am concerned, choice is what democracy is all about.

The provision that 50 per cent of the billings of a particular physician have to be opted in before, under some circumstances, that physician can opt out and extra bill is similarly a very real safeguard. It is not something that I have ever heard the OMA talk about. That would provide the certainty that not only in a particular area, but also in the practice of a particular physician, there could well be the option to have service at

the OHIP rate. Similarly, that is not tokenism and it is not the position of the OMA. It is the position of my amendment and it is substantially different from either the government or the OMA position.

That has been my objective. I have endeavoured to steer a course that would be a meaningful compromise between two highly polarized positions in the service, I hope, of eventual harmony and resolution of a problem.

There are some other matters in my amendments that differ from what the OMA has proposed and from what it might accept. My proposal that the minister can regulate groups not to be extra billed without the requirement of further legislation, my proposal that he can regulate what groups can be exempted under the emergency-treatment guideline without further legislation and my proposed involvement of the regional health council are all steps in the direction of ensuring the minister's prerogative to guarantee services at OHIP rates, opted in within the program, and to involve the regional health council in a way that hitherto has not occurred.

I do not know whether the member was proposing that I have a huge income in his reference to people with huge incomes. However, I assure him that is not the case. It never was huge and it is now even less so than it was a year and a half ago, since I became a member of this Legislature.

**5:10 p.m.**

Believe me; I know physicians pretty well. I know a lot of them. I think I am making a point that is not fully understood by the members on this side of the House and perhaps by those on the other side as well. I do not believe money is the heart of the issue. I am not saying there are no individual physicians for whom financial considerations are not the prime motivating factor, but I do not believe the issue in the dispute is money; I believe the issue in the dispute is freedom. Any legislator who fails to appreciate that this is the case fails to understand what this dispute is all about.

If 88 per cent of physicians are fully opted in and 95 per cent of services are rendered on an opted-in basis, I have a very difficult time believing that the inequities and the injustices my friend on the other side of the House spoke of or alluded to are problems much beyond problems of distribution.

**Mr. Philip:** How do you have an operation without an anaesthetist?

**Mr. Chairman:** Order. The member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) will have lots of time to make his comments.



**Mr. Henderson:** If 30 per cent, 20 per cent or even 10 per cent of citizens in Ontario want to have a physician who is at arm's length from the state, and if only five per cent of services and only 10 per cent or so of physicians are opted out, that too is a problem of accessibility. There are accessibility problems on both sides of this issue. The accessibility problem is not simply a problem of people who are financially disadvantaged having access to service. There are also the rights of nonvisible minorities that have to be considered. The approach proposed by my friend on the other side, the Health critic of the New Democratic Party, rides roughshod over the rights of that minority of Ontarians that feels very strongly about having its physicians at arm's length from the state.

That is as much as I need to say now. The member for Windsor-Riverside ought to re-evaluate some of his views about democracy. The kind of socialism he stands for is supposed to be democratic socialism. I would like him to make an effort to put the D back in NDP because he is losing sight of it.

**Mr. Philip:** How about democratic liberalism?

**Mr. Henderson:** There is no other kind.

**Mr. Stevenson:** It is with some regret that I find it necessary to join in this discussion, but with the bill coming forward in this format, I have no choice but to make some comments. As our Health critic stated, we will support the amendments of the member for Humber. We feel the amendments we will put forward are somewhat more definitive and better than those of the member for Humber; however, we will support the member.

I agree wholeheartedly with the member's comment that the health care system is too important to get wrapped up in a lot of political rhetoric. Unfortunately, exactly the opposite is happening. He went on to say that he hoped the members of this Legislature would vote on conscience in determining their personal decisions on the amendments to this bill and that there would be no embarrassment to the minister or his party with him taking the position that he has taken. Quite clearly, there has to be some embarrassment.

I would suggest the member has very little to gain politically by taking the stand he has taken. He is a person with a somewhat unique insight into the medicare system in Ontario. He also has the insight of how this bill was put together, and what went on inside the party that is putting this bill forward.

I am sure the position he has taken is not going to gain him a great deal of support in his own riding. There is some question, I suspect, about what this will mean to his own political future within the party. One has to look at the gut-wrenching decisions he had to make in bringing forward these decisions.

One has to look and say that the member for Humber is not getting involved in a great deal of political rhetoric. He has come forward with decisions that I am sure he has considered for not just hours but for days and weeks. He has come forward with amendments that are not in line with those of the Ontario Medical Association. They are amendments that he feels will address the concerns of many of the citizens of Ontario, that will form a compromise between the position taken by the government and that of the OMA. His positions are similar enough to the compromise positions of this party that they warrant some considerable attention.

I want to repeat that the member has little to gain from being heavily involved in the politics of this issue and he is therefore coming forward in a very thoughtful and sincere manner which cannot help but be an embarrassment to the Minister of Health who, for the same reason, is involved in a great deal of political rhetoric.

I would like to suggest that we possibly should have amended the title of the bill to call it an act for regulating the amount of political pop that the government may gain from rendering wrong-headed tampering with the Health Insurance Act.

As the member for Humber has stated, it is a very simplistic way of dealing with a very complicated issue, an issue that strikes at the heart of the health insurance system in this province. I very strongly believe we shall see the results of this bill showing up over the next many years in the health care system of the province. I regret considerably that all too many of the results of this bill are not going to be positive and are not going to be for the benefit of the general public of Ontario.

**5:20 p.m.**

The amendments that the member for Humber has put forward can address the accessibility issue. In the area I represent, we have the Uxbridge hospital, the Port Perry hospital and the Newmarket hospital serving most of the people in the riding of Durham-York. No one extra bills, at least of the doctors who live within the general area in the Uxbridge and Port Perry hospitals and who work out of those hospitals. A number of the doctors who are associated with the hospital in Newmarket do so.



In the five years that I have been a member representing that area, I have had one phone call of a somewhat unfortunate situation where a person was extra billed for medical service and found it somewhat difficult to deal with the situation. Very clearly, the health care professionals, the doctors in that hospital, have dealt with the situation in a very professional way over the past many years and have carried on their practices in a similar manner to that suggested by the amendments of the member for Humber and in a very similar fashion to that of the amendments we will make.

Anyone who expressed a problem in meeting any costs associated with a particular procedure to be done in that hospital was given the service at the Ontario health insurance plan rates. Clearly, the people and the system can adjust to the needs of individuals. It has been done very successfully in the past. The amendments we will be putting forward—and to that extent the amendments the member for Humber has put forward—clearly address the situation and could resolve the relatively few problems that exist in the present delivery of health care in Ontario.

The amendments address not only the situation of whatever problems exist out there on an individual basis but also the distribution problem that exists. They cover it quite well and still leave the system in a form that will give doctors individual initiative and the necessary degree of freedom to practise medicine in this province with a professionalism and a degree of excellence that is necessary for top health care.

I am quite sure that Bill 94, as proposed, will not allow for that same degree of professionalism or the same degree of excellence in the future health care of Ontario. It is just a matter of years before we start seeing that effect showing up in our system.

This bill does not bring an end to what limited two-class medicine might exist anywhere in Ontario. Certainly if there was any intention of trying to address the problem in a real way rather than in just a political way, they would look at the other health care providers not named in the act who extra bill on a regular basis.

I suppose they would eliminate semi-private and private care in the hospitals. Why should people be allowed any special service in a hospital simply because they happen to be able to afford it? It is not really clear to me why the government has isolated the doctors for its attention. It could have addressed a great many other areas if it were really sincere, or if it believed for a moment its actions would have any

real effect, or if it were addressing a major issue in the delivery of or accessibility to health care in the province.

Why should people have private nursing attendants in a hospital just because they can afford them or because they have an insurance plan that supplies them? Why not cut off those sorts of services? That may not be part of a two-tiered system of health care, or the government may have felt there would not be much political gain by going into that sort of thing.

Why can some people afford to have colour televisions or telephones by their beds and others cannot afford them? Is the government going to give those sorts of services to everybody?

**Mr. Breagh:** This is right on the amendment, is it, Mr. Chairman?

**Mr. Stevenson:** Yes, I am talking about the amendment. Certainly it is.

I do not pretend to understand every issue involved in the delivery of the whole of the health care system, but I see how it affects the people in my constituency and the members of my family. I quite frankly do not see how this act is going to address many of the issues that involve the accessibility of uniform health care across Ontario.

As far as costs are concerned, it is safe to say that costs will go up, and the member for Humber has addressed this issue. He clearly feels that his amendments will reduce the costs to the Treasury and to the taxpayers of Ontario, and I am sure he is correct.

If one has a problem in one's own household that is costing \$500 a year and that is going to cost \$2,000 a year to solve, does one live to some degree with the problem and try to resolve it as best one can? Or does one pay through the nose for something that is quite questionable, that is not going to be any better and that many of us believe may well be worse?

Hence, from an accessibility point of view there is very much a question of whether this act is any step forwards at all. I suggest that the member for Humber has thought about this situation for a great many hours, and he clearly thinks it is a definite step backwards, not forwards. Certainly, the cost does not favour the passage of the bill.

**5:30 p.m.**

I firmly believe this bill will not bring an end to what very limited, if any, two-tiered delivery of health services there is in Ontario.

Many other instances are much more obvious. There are instances of the delivery of extra billing practices right from the ministry. I am sure they



will come out in the next few days if they have not already been mentioned in previous debates. To suggest that this is going to solve the problem is nonsense. As far as payments to doctors are concerned, I do not think there is any question but that they will continue to go on in some underground form. I suspect the net result may well be even more troublesome in the future.

**Mr. McClellan:** Tell us about under-the-table payments.

**Mr. Stevenson:** There are tips for services in all sorts of areas of our society. To suggest that they will not occur in Ontario as they are already occurring in other provinces of Canada, we only have to—

**Mr. McClellan:** What a high opinion of doctors the member has.

**Mr. Stevenson:** It is not an opinion of doctors at all; it is an opinion of people who go to them. If they decide to give a donation for excellence of service to somebody who has worked for them, whether it is their local carpenter or doctor—

**Mr. Breagh:** What about a member? Do people give the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) tips?

**Mr. Stevenson:** No, they do not. It will happen. If members think the bill is going to solve that problem, we have only to talk to our friends in Quebec. Clearly, it is going on on a daily basis on a very wide basis.

**Mr. McClellan:** It is a bribe.

**Mr. Stevenson:** It is not a bribe at all, for heaven's sake.

If the minister suggests for a minute that this will resolve the problems, it most certainly will not. I ask him to reconsider the carefully thought out position of his own caucus colleague, the member for Humber, or preferably the amendments that will be put forward by this party, and to have another look at trying to solve this situation by negotiation or some sort of compromise here in the Legislature.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Does the member for Humber wish to comment?

**Mr. Henderson:** I do not, other than to commend the member who just spoke for his sensitivity and wisdom. I do not think I need to speak further.

**Mr. McClellan:** I do not want to take a long time, but I want to respond to the suggestion made by the member for Humber and by the member for Durham-York that instead of passing Bill 94, we should be negotiating an end to extra billing with the Ontario Medical Association.

I will not ask the member for Durham-York before he leaves, but I am sure the member for Humber does not share the view of the member for Durham-York that the passage of Bill 94 will result in what can only be described as one of the silliest slanders ever made against the medical profession in this province, that they will take payments under the table to provide medical care. This is the second time the member for Durham-York has made that suggestion.

**Miss Stephenson:** That is not what he said.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** That is exactly what he said.

**Mr. McClellan:** It is exactly what he said, that people will have to pay extra money to get medical service. It is an outrageous and intolerable slander of the medical profession, no matter what side of the debate one is on. I doubt very much that the member for Humber shares that view, which has been expressed on more than one occasion by Conservatives. It should cause the member for Humber to reflect for a moment about who his allies are in this discussion.

On the question of negotiating an agreement, the member for York Mills took some sotto voce umbrage at my colleague's reference to the agreement that was negotiated with the Ontario Medical Association by the member for Don Mills when he was Minister of Health. I want to review it for the benefit of those who suggest we can negotiate a settlement with the Ontario Medical Association. I have the announcement of the agreement in my hand. It is dated March 29, 1979. The then Minister of Health came to the Legislature on Thursday, March 29, 1979, and announced an agreement between the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Medical Association. He described it as an agreement and presented it to the House as an agreement.

He said in his statement, and I am reading from his actual statement that was in my file, "both the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Hospital Association have agreed to begin joint discussions immediately to devise a mechanism to ensure" access to medical services at the assured rates in every hospital. Second, there was an agreement that the OMA would undertake to help citizens obtain the services of an opted-in physician. Third, the OMA would be the sole negotiating agency for physicians. Fourth, the OMA agreed to support the principle that the physician should inform the patient in advance of any charges above the OHIP schedule of benefits.

That was described as an agreement between the government of Ontario—



**Mr. Ashe:** Which of those things did not happen?

**Mr. McClellan:** My friend the member for Durham West should wait for it. It was described as an agreement of the Ministry of Health, the government of Ontario and the Ontario Medical Association. It was presented to us as the result of a process of negotiation and that this was the agreement. What did we learn subsequently? Through an investigation by the Ombudsman of Ontario, the Honourable Donald Morand, we learned that there was no agreement at all.

I quote from the report of the Ombudsman's investigation of May 1982, from the Ombudsman's report of May 27, 1982. "Further information was sought concerning this 'agreement.' My investigator determined that the 'agreement' referred to was the minister's March 29, 1979, statement to the Legislature. There is no other document concerning this 'agreement' other than the statement to the Legislature.

"According to Dr. Surplis"—who was an assistant to the minister of the day—"representatives from the Ontario Medical Association met with ministry representatives on the evening of March 28, 1979, and agreed upon the statements that were to be made by the minister to the Legislature the following day. Dr. Surplis advised that there is no legal basis for the present 'agreement.'"

Later in the same year, the Health Disciplines Board ruled in a decision of June 1982 that this agreement was legally meaningless and that the Ministry of Health had no power to enforce anything.

That is the record of the previous government with respect to dealing with extra billing. When they stand in the Legislature in 1986 and talk about sitting down with the Ontario Medical Association to negotiate an end to extra billing, the record speaks for itself.

**5:40 p.m.**

When they had the opportunity to try to do something about extra billing, they engaged in a cheap public relations exercise that was as phoney as the paper that it was not written on. They have a nerve coming forward now, after the hoax they perpetrated in the 1970s and 1980s, to tell us that the course of wisdom is to sit down and negotiate an agreement.

My friend the member for Humber is allying himself with people who do not deserve his alliance. The course of wisdom for him is to support the members of his own party and the members of the New Democratic Party and have speedy passage of Bill 94.

**Mr. Henderson:** I will make one or two comments on those remarks. I confess that I do not fully understand what the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) is getting at when he proposes that I should reflect on who my allies are. I am not a Tory but I respect all members of this House. I respect the Tories. They will support or not support my amendments for their reasons, the same as members of the third party will support or not support them for their reasons and the same as members on this side of the House will support or not support them for their reasons. I am happy to have the support of whoever thinks my amendments are a good idea.

I think they are a good idea and that they would solve the problem we are addressing. They would do it in a way that would preserve reasonable harmony with physicians. Reasonable harmony with physicians will be very necessary in the years to come. I think my amendments are a good idea and I am happy some other members of this House are willing to support them.

My second point is that there has been an awful lot of rhetoric about this business of negotiating and about who is and who is not willing to negotiate. I do not wish to prolong that discussion by more than a minute or two. When that rhetoric was flowing pretty thick and fast a few months ago, I did what I hope a few other members did. I looked up in a dictionary what "negotiate" means. This is from Merriam-Webster: "Negotiate" is "to confer with another so as to arrive at the settlement of some matter."

I know many members of this House do not agree and I try to respect their perception of the situation, but there is no doubt at all in my mind that the Ontario Medical Association has been willing since this past summer, has become increasingly willing as the months have evolved and is currently willing to negotiate by the definition I just quoted. There is no doubt in my mind that it has gone a long way in negotiations. It has moved a long way from the position it started with on this matter.

Incidentally, it has moved a long way from its membership. If anything, the OMA as an official body is getting into difficulty because the membership is saying: "Look you guys, look OMA, you are going too far in this negotiation. We, the members, are not so sure we want to go quite that far, at least not yet." The OMA has done a very honourable job of negotiating.

I am sorry I find myself having to reiterate what I said in January. I believe that we on the government side have to give a little on what we



call "principle." What we as a government call "principle" is a little more than a principle; in fact, it is a lot more than a principle. It is a particular type of solution to a particular problem. A principle is a general statement of how one wants to go about something, what style one wants to adopt, what ideas one has and what one's end point might be.

What we have insisted on from the outset is not a principle. It is an imposed solution, with some variation in how we dot the i's and cross the t's. I have an idea of what negotiation comprises that is a little different. To me, when one negotiates something, one negotiates a problem. One examines the problem, tries to formulate it, tries to agree on how one might formulate it and examines a range of possible solutions. There is some give and take. There may be a provisional agreement, and one may try out the provisional agreement or one may evaluate the results and decide what further steps are needed. To me, that is what flexible, democratic problem-solving in government is all about.

If one is worried about the paper, tie it down in legislation, in writing and in regulations—that is what my amendments propose to do—and it will be worth the paper it is written on.

**Miss Stephenson:** I am pleased to participate in this debate on the first amendments introduced under Bill 94 to ensure that the very rational point of view put forward by my colleague the member for Humber is considered seriously by all members of this Legislature.

As my colleague has suggested, his amendments are based on the need, as he perceives it and as many of the rest of us perceive it, to find a solution to the current impasse. If this is solved by the legislation introduced by the government, it will ensure that there will be a significant deterioration in the quality of the health care system in Ontario. In the perception of almost all the physicians in this province—I would say 98 per cent of them—the bill as it is currently written has the effect of conscripting the medical profession into a no-choice position, which is not the kind of position they have enjoyed since the national health program was introduced in 1967.

If the members of the New Democratic Party believe the only way to achieve principle is by bludgeoning the opposition to death, then obviously that is the direction they will pursue. The member for Humber is suggesting there is another route to find solutions to these problems and impasses. We should be thoughtful, perspicacious and sensitive enough to pursue those alternative courses to finding solutions.

The issue in this current impasse for the physicians of Ontario, and I believe for the optometrists and dentists as well—I have difficulty understanding why podiatrists, chiropractors and all the others for whom bills are paid by the Ontario health insurance plan are not included in this legislation. I do not understand why they continue to have the legislated right to extra bill when it is being taken away from others. I ask the deputy minister to provide us with a fuller explanation than one that suggests that because not all their services are covered, they therefore are not included. I remind him that not all dental services are covered, nor are all optometrists' services covered, yet those two professions are being subjected to the same potentially extremely oppressive action that Bill 94 in its current form would introduce.

For the practitioners for whom this bill is important at present, because they are included, the issue is freedom. It is the freedom of the members of that profession to determine the way in which they will function in relation to and in support of the health care system in Ontario. In this province, all the physicians, and I believe all the affected dentists, have functioned effectively in support of the principles of the health care system of this province and this country, the principle of as much universal access to health care as possible.

**5:50 p.m.**

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** How would the member know?

**Miss Stephenson:** The member for Windsor-Riverside asks how I would know. I have a little more experience in direct involvement in the health care system of this province than he will ever have. That continues on a daily basis now, since my husband currently practises full-time. If I am out of touch, the member is on a different planet. That planet, I suggest to the members of this Legislature, is Venus, because that guy is in some kind of super-rarified atmosphere that affects his brain on a daily basis.

I come back to the issue before us, which is the legislation that is at hand.

I am sorry the member for Windsor-Riverside is going to disappear, because he raised an issue in conjunction with his discussion of the amendments proposed by my colleague the member for Humber that suggested we are reverting to what he called charity medicine. The member for Windsor-Riverside does not know the meaning of the word "charity." He does not know that charity is not part of the philosophy of physicians, not in his terms.



The responsibility of professional practitioners of medicine in Ontario and in Canada for lo these many decades has been to deliver first-class health care in all circumstances, no matter what is going to happen after that delivery occurs. It has never been part of the philosophy of physicians that they were do-gooders or people who dispensed charity. They simply provided the best service they could to every single patient in all circumstances, no matter whether that patient was ever going to pay them.

It has nothing to do with that member's concept of charity; it has nothing to do with second-class citizens, because there are none. There are no second-class citizens as far as physicians in this province are concerned. No second-class service is provided and there is no two-tiered delivery of health care in this province. There never has been and there never will be, no matter how much the member tries to denigrate whatever system we have at the present time.

It is unfortunate there has been an insistence on payment by the government for every single service that is provided. That has negated some of the quality of the understanding of full responsibility that physicians have traditionally had in this province. It has not destroyed it all, thank goodness, and I hope it never will destroy it all. We will do our best to make sure it does not. A physician's responsibilities encompass the need to ensure that no matter who the individual is, in whatever circumstance or in whatever part of his province, the quality of the health care that will be provided to him will be the best the physician can provide.

He also talked about equality of accessibility. This bill does nothing to ensure equality of accessibility. The individual patient in Ear Falls who has an optic neuritis usually cannot see an ophthalmologist within a 12-hour period. We do not have equality of accessibility to the full range of health care services provided in this province for all the people of this province, because it is not possible to do it. The distances and the sparseness of population ensure that the full range of specialties is not available in every hamlet of Ontario.

Therefore, the person who lives in downtown Toronto in actual fact enjoys a great deal more accessibility to the full range of health care than does the person who lives in Ear Falls, Wawa, Hudson, Geraldton or any of the northern communities. Until the government ensures that the full range of services is available within a very short period of time equally to the people

who live in downtown Toronto and to the people who live in those remote communities, we cannot talk about full equality of accessibility. Let us not talk about things we have not been able to achieve.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The Conservatives had 42 years to do that.

**Miss Stephenson:** This province has done a better job of ensuring that kind of accessibility than any other jurisdiction in Canada. The member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) would do well to stuff his mouth with some of his pollution material and not talk about things he does not know anything about.

In addition, we must ensure the other aspects of equality of accessibility as well as we can. However, the solution provided by the government is not one that will provide equal accessibility throughout the province, and it is foolish, misleading and somewhat dishonest to suggest to the people of Ontario that it will.

It is important that the members of this House recognize, as has the member for Humber, that the Ontario health insurance plan is an insurance program. It is a voluntary program for individual citizens in this province.

There are some rules. In some circumstances, if one is an employee in certain situations one must contribute because one's contract says so. There are employers who, because of the size of their employment establishment, must ensure that they have formed groups to provide the insurance program for their employees. However, there are significant numbers of individual citizens of this province who are not necessarily financially embarrassed in any way who have made the decision that they will not participate in OHIP. It is not mandatory in all circumstances to sign a contract as an individual Ontarian with the Ontario government to ensure health care services. It is not mandatory for all citizens, nor is it mandatory for all physicians. That balanced freedom is the Canadian approach to problems and to the types of solutions we have for them.

If we make it mandatory for all patients, then we must make it mandatory for those who will provide the services. However, the patient in this province has the freedom to choose whether he or she will participate, unless he or she is in an employment situation that requires it.

He or she has the right to choose the individual initial provider of health care services in all circumstances. However, OHIP does not provide freedom for the individual patient to determine that in the first circumstance; for example, an obstetrical patient will go to a specialist obstetri-



cian. That is not a freedom provided under OHIP. OHIP ensures that the patient must require the services of an obstetrician and must be referred for those services by the family physician or the initial examiner, the initial provider of health care, in order that the services of the obstetrician will be covered by the insurance program.

To suggest, as the minister did the other day in this House, that it was going to be the right or was the right of every citizen in Ontario to decide which consultant he or she was going to see and when, and to have those services provided at no cost to the pocket of that patient, is not entirely the truthful emanation one would have hoped would have come from the minister. The patient does not have that freedom under the current health insurance program.

This is the type of thing my friend the member for Humber is acutely aware of when he attempts to find a reasonable, middle-path solution to the problems that have arisen as a result of the intellectual and emotional impasse that has come into existence since the introduction of this bill. It is part of his suggestion that the freedom or choice permitted to the patient is balanced by a modicum of choice granted to the physician.

That choice is tempered very severely and critically in a number of areas. It will be modified dramatically if, in the area in which he or she practises, there are not sufficient physicians who deal directly with the insurance plan on the basis of the OHIP level of payment. The right and freedom will not be there for that physician in that circumstance, as I read his amendments. What he has done is to suggest that there are freedoms allowed to the individual who has the contract with the government.

I remind the members that in this circumstance, only the patient has the contract with the insurance program. The physicians voluntarily agree under the present circumstance to accept payment as full and final in their opted-in positions. They simply signify that they are opted in. I suppose that could be construed as some type of contract, but it is not the type of insurance contract one signs with an insurance company if one is going to be a beneficiary of that insurance company's activities.

**6 p.m.**

The freedom that is being suggested here, as I said, is not expansive; it is not unlimited. It is not granted without licence. It is not to be exercised in a profligate way. It is a very limited and very responsible kind of freedom. Although it is very similar in scope to the limited freedoms that were

suggested in the negotiations by the Ontario Medical Association, it does not stop there but goes on to provide for a process of limitation of the exercise of those freedoms, which is a very interesting new introduction and an introduction that I doubt would have the total support of all the members of the medical profession.

However, in this circumstance, if there is an agreement that the current provisions of Bill 94 as written by the minister could be displaced totally and replaced by the interesting suggestions and useful alternatives provided by the minister or, rather, the member for Humber—I guess I say “minister” with a Freudian kind of overtone, because it would be so helpful if we had a Minister of Health on that side of the House with the knowledge and understanding of, and the sensitivity to, the health care system that this member for Humber has demonstrated.

**Mr. Martel:** We saw a certain Minister of Education, a former Minister of Labour, who was a real dinosaur.

**Miss Stephenson:** The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), of course, is the individual who would suggest that only a teacher or the principal of a school should be involved in all of the ministries; nobody else can do anything. I have a little more charitable view of the capacities of my fellow human beings. I believe that each individual has talents and capabilities and that they should all be exercised, even if the member for Sudbury East disagrees wholeheartedly with me about that, as he usually does about everything.

**Mr. Martel:** That is right, because you are always wrong. It is not my fault.

**Miss Stephenson:** I must admit the only person who is ever always right is the person who never says or thinks anything, and I guess that describes the member for Sudbury East. The only person who is wrong from time to time is the person who tries to do something.

**Mr. Martel:** You are driving your own Health critic out of the House. Why are you being such a pussycat? Get tough.

**Miss Stephenson:** Just wait; I shall.

It was unfortunate the member for Windsor-Riverside decided the member for Humber had less knowledge, less capability and less understanding of the direction this bill should take. The people of Ontario want the health care system they currently enjoy to continue in its good, healthy and progressive form; they do not want it to be burdened with a potentially fatal illness. That is one of the understandings the member for



Windsor-Riverside does not possess at present, because he does not seem to understand that the capacity, the motivation and the commitment of professionals who are conscripted or legislated into a role they do not wish to fulfil will not provide the leadership to encourage the development of a health care system similar to that which we currently enjoy.

We were talking about negotiation, which is a very significant part of the amendment suggested by my honourable friend. We were talking about negotiations and discussions and about finding solutions to problems. It is a measure—

**Mr. Martel:** The Ontario Public Service Employees Union thought that on the colleges bill. They thought it was real negotiations too.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order. The member for Sudbury East is being entirely too noisy. The chair cannot hear and other members cannot hear.

The member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) is also not in his seat and therefore would not interject, would he?

**Mr. Martel:** I know what the member for York Mills did to the community college teachers.

**Miss Stephenson:** He does not.

**Mr. Martel:** She savaged them.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order. Carry on.

**Miss Stephenson:** On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Chairman—

**Mr. Chairman:** No. I am sure it is not a point of personal privilege.

**Miss Stephenson:** As a matter of fact, it is point of order, because the remark from the member for Sudbury East is again erroneous. Who established the Skolnik commission to look at the problems of the teachers in the community college system to try to find a solution to the problem? It was not the member for Sudbury East; it was someone else. I am too humble to tell who it was; so I will not.

However, I am delighted to know that it turned out to be such a good report and that it has been useful in solving the problem of the master teachers in the community college system. We needed to ensure that there was a balance in that situation as well and that the needs of the students were met, as were the needs of the teachers; we achieved that. We are doing the same thing with the amendments of the member for Humber to this legislation: achieving the needs of the patients and the needs of the providers of the service to ensure the maintenance of the quality of the program we all enjoy.

I believe discussion and negotiation are possible. I was a little nonplussed when I read in the newspaper the other day that one of my colleagues who specializes in a form of geriatrics suggested that the OMA trade the matter of professional freedom for an absolute guarantee by this Liberal government that it would never intrude into any other aspect of health care delivery. I must admit I thought it was an intriguing suggestion.

I then started to laugh a little, because I remembered very well that in 1983 and 1984, the present Premier stood up and made impassioned speeches in this Legislature and in other parts of the province suggesting that legislating an end to extra billing in the way suggested by the New Democratic Party would be totally destructive of the health care system in Ontario. I have a little difficulty understanding how any knowledgeable physician could believe we could get an iron-clad guarantee from this government that it would never intrude.

That, of course, is the concern of the physicians. The concern of the physicians is based on history, on personal and association observation of the events that have occurred in all the jurisdictions where this kind of legislation has been introduced. This is always the first step, just a gentle first step that ensures no one will ever have to put his hand in his pocket to pay for any insured service under the Ontario health insurance plan, except of course for the services of chiropractors, podiatrists and a few other people who are excluded from this bill.

The principle is that they will not have to put their hands in their pockets. That is fair for everybody. That is egalitarian and levels everyone. There cannot be any discrepancy. There cannot be any kind of variation. There cannot be a concern expressed by anyone.

What happens next? The physicians are virtual employees of the government; they would be in that circumstance because when one negotiates remuneration with the person who is supplying the remuneration, and one has to come to an agreement about it, one must be, even in their parlance, in an employer-employee relationship. That circumstance holds true here as well.

As soon as that is introduced, the next thing that happens is that there is a little leaning in a direction that will ensure the health care professionals who are needed in North Overshoe, who are interning at the time at North York General Hospital, will go to North Overshoe for a period of four years. We have tried it with a period of one year but that is not good enough because the



people of the north deserve more than peripatetics.

That is the kind of activity that ensues. It not only happens in other jurisdictions outside of Canada; it is happening in Canada right now. If the members do not believe that, they can look slightly to the east, to Quebec, which is introducing the same kind of procedure that currently is in British Columbia.

**6:10 p.m.**

The next step, of course, is to determine just how much can be expended for health care and to limit the range of services made available. Can everybody get all the range of services? No, of course they cannot, because what we must deliver is what is necessary for the vast majority of people.

Then we move ahead to the next procedure, which is the rationing of those services. That is currently being done in Britain, where the individual patient who may need a kidney transplant or even dialysis will get that a good deal more readily if he or she happens to be under the age of 60 than if he or she is over the age of 60.

**Mr. Breaugh:** Slandering Margaret Thatcher; this is awful.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** It is the Tory party, is it not?

**Miss Stephenson:** It is not just in Britain. This is also happening in such delightfully socialist countries as Romania, Yugoslavia, Albania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. It is the inevitable follow-through of the initial first step, which Bill 94 in its current form is introducing. We have heard the minister say he is never going to intrude upon anything. That is hogwash. He is not going to intrude on anything any more than he did in Bills 54 and 55 or is proposing to do beyond that.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order. The member should get back closer to the amendment of the member for Humber.

**Miss Stephenson:** I shall be delighted to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for reminding me.

**Mr. Breaugh:** It only took the member an hour to get there.

**Mr. McClellan:** Leaving the concentration camps.

**Miss Stephenson:** The only concentration camps I have ever visited are those which I think are an abomination of humanity, and I am not suggesting anything of that sort. I would be happy if the rhetoric of the member for Bellwoods were a little less vivid in directions that are totally inappropriate in this debate.

**Mr. Breaugh:** Just Romania and Czechoslovakia.

**Mr. Martel:** Is the member trying to be inflammatory?

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** Double standard.

**Mr. Chairman:** Just ignore the interjections.

**Miss Stephenson:** To the master of double standards in this Legislature—

**Mr. Chairman:** No.

**Miss Stephenson:** All right. Fine.

**Mr. Breaugh:** It sounds impossible, but she is being provocative.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** And totally inaccurate and untrue.

**Miss Stephenson:** No. It is of grave concern that there be reasonable discussions and reasonable negotiations between the government and those responsible for negotiating. To my knowledge, there has been precious little negotiation with the College of Optometrist of Ontario. I am not at all sure there has been very significant negotiation with the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario regarding the effects of this legislation. It will provide for fairly significant limitations in very narrow areas for those two professions.

The member for Bellwoods suggested there had been an agreement in the past which had been breached. It is my understanding there had been an agreement regarding a statement that was to be made and an agreement that there would be discussions between the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Hospital Association to try to find directions that would provide solutions to the problems of the provision of care within hospitals at a rate for which the payment would be the OHIP level of benefit.

I am aware there was initial discussion about that subject. I am not aware of the reasons for the demise of those discussions; however, I am aware there was firm commitment on the part of the OMA to the other three items that were agreed upon that evening. That kind of agreement is something that could be improved upon. It is those kinds of negotiation and improvement we need in Bill 94.

We must have a negotiated settlement and reach some reasonable compromise, such as suggested by the member for Humber in his amendments to this section of Bill 94, which would ensure that there would be careful examination of the unhappy impact for a considerable number of people of the maintenance of that pejorative term "extra billing," or billing beyond the OHIP level of payment.



There could be a careful examination by both parties of the ways in which this could be measured and identified appropriately without doing disservice to the people who are affected by it. No one is suggesting, and particularly not the member for Humber, that every individual within the list he is putting forward for our consideration be stamped with a scarlet letter of some sort on the forehead, the wrist or the back, so that would have to be examined to determine whether the individual was one of those for whom extra billing should not take place.

What is being proposed is simply that there be discussions to ensure this can be done effectively and unobtrusively, without causing embarrassment, distress, disturbance or any discombobulation to those people who would be affected by the exceptions he is prescribing in the first part of his amendment. That is a very reasonable direction for a member of this Legislature to suggest, and a very reasonable direction for the members of this Legislature in toto to pursue in this whole area.

The member goes on in the next part of his amendment to section 2 to suggest there are certain exceptions and exemptions to the limited freedom that is being provided in his amendment to subsection 2(1). Those exemptions are very specific and they are good. They are firm. There are probably members of the OMA who would find them difficult to accept, and I remind the members of the House that the OMA is not a trade union and does not enjoy the kind of capability for singular direction.

However, through moral suasion and through active educational programs, the OMA can ensure that the members of the association follow the directions that are being pursued. If, as the member has suggested, these directions are a part of the legislation, then there is no doubt in my mind that all the members of the medical profession within this province would pursue that practise, which would ensure they would not be in breach of the legislation put forward here.

That is not the attitude that Bill 94, as it is currently written and as supported by the New Democratic Party, is going to engender within the hearts of the practitioners in Ontario. It has been suggested that it is a denigration of the profession to suggest there would be other means that might be found by patients to provide the appreciation they feel for their physicians and that it would be entirely the fault of the practitioners if this were to happen.

I feel very strongly, and have felt this way for almost the 11 years I have been here, that the government, in any jurisdiction, should not busy

itself with the development and passage of legislation which encourages activities that are not entirely ethical or moral, or which encourages some breach of what we know as the legal framework within which we operate. I fear that some of the activities in which we have been involved—and I confess I have been part of some of this as well—have not been entirely lily-white in that type of description. They have not—

**Mr. Haggerty:** Now the member is being honest.

**Miss Stephenson:** I am always honest.

I believe this legislation, as currently proposed by the government, is one of those examples of legislation which will stimulate the idea that perhaps one can circumvent the legislation without causing any problem, that one can do something that is slightly dishonest without disrupting the system. That should bother each and every member of this Legislature.

**6:20 p.m.**

I do not believe that any one of us wants to be involved with the development, passage or promulgation of legislation that encourages people to think dishonestly, even to imagine or to act dishonestly. If we are guilty of behaving in that inappropriate fashion, it behooves each and every one of us to rethink our position. I honestly believe the present structure of Bill 94 is very much an action that will push people in that direction, not necessarily just the deliverers of the health care services but those who receive them as well.

It seems to me we cannot afford a society in which large numbers of people, including some of the leaders of our society, are prodded, pushed, encouraged, cajoled or even stimulated to think about behaving in ways that are not to the benefit of society as a whole. In terms of our understanding of the necessity for the support for the rule of law, I believe that with all my heart, and I believe the amendments—

**Mr. Chairman:** The rule of law is quite a piece off the member for Humber's amendment.

**Mr. Stephenson:** I disagree with you, Mr. Chairman, if I may do so. I firmly believe the amendments being proposed by the member for Humber are the alternative direction that will help this Legislature to move towards the passage of legislation that will encourage and stimulate the deliverers of health care to function not only in an ethical and professional way in the delivery of care but in an ethical and professional way in all other circumstances as well, because they will not have been denied the total freedom that has



traditionally been a part of their relationship to the health insurance program, the health support program in this province and in this country.

If the bill is passed as currently written and the legislation at the federal level is found not to be constitutional and not to be supportable, the amendments proposed by the member for Humber ensure that we have legislation that is in support of the principle of accessibility and universality but is not based primarily on the thesis that we have to recover an amount, incorrectly computed though it is in Ontario. It is probably slightly less than half that suggested by the members of the New Democratic Party. The legislation would be reasonable and would not need to be amended dramatically. It would be in place and would continue to provide the framework for the delivery of health care in this province that it currently does.

I believe the member for Humber has exercised all the skills and talents he innately has, which have been honed by the education and training program provided for those who decide to become involved in the delivery of medicine for the benefit of patients in Ontario. He has exercised a good deal of his own perspicacity in pursuing other courses of educational program to make himself more knowledgeable.

As a result, he is probably the most knowledgeable individual in this Legislature at present in relation to the effects of Bill 94 as it is written, in relation to the need for reasonable compromise and in relation to the health economic directions he is suggesting with his amendments. We have all the advantages of the mind, experience, training and background of the member for Humber in the development of these amendments.

Surely this Legislature is not going to be so blind as to ignore that, even though there is no strong commitment at present on the part of his colleagues across the floor to support the very reasonable direction he has developed. It is a direction that I implore each member opposite to consider seriously, particularly the member for Huron-something. What is it?

**An hon. member:** Huron-Bruce.

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** I thought you were talking about the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell).

**Miss Stephenson:** Jack? I would not ask Jack to consider anything, but I thought perhaps the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston)—

**Mr. Breagh:** Is this a breakup?

**Miss Stephenson:** Jack's mind works in a different direction.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order. I remind the member to use the name of the riding and not the surname or first name.

**Miss Stephenson:** The member for Huron—

**Mr. Chairman:** The member for Huron-Middlesex.

**Miss Stephenson:** Is Huron-Middlesex the riding of the Minister of Agriculture and Food?

**Mr. Chairman:** Yes.

**Miss Stephenson:** Thank you. I always thought it was just Huron. I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

I ask all the members opposite, including the Minister of Agriculture and Food, to consider very seriously the amendments that have been proposed by their colleague the member for Humber, who has provided them with a direction that solves one of the major problems of negotiation, and that is the requirement to ensure that major face is not lost when a solution is developed. He is giving the government that. He has provided it with the kind of solution that will ensure it is not going to lose face, that it is pursuing the direction it said it was going to pursue and that it is going about it in a sensitive, thoughtful and knowledgeable way.

I ask that there be very serious consideration of this kind of activity on the part of all the colleagues of the member for Humber, because he has put his mind to this with vigour since December. He has done yeoman work on behalf of that caucus. He has ensured that some of the members of the caucus neither were drawn and quartered nor suffered at the hands of slightly overenthusiastic surgeons, a fate that might have been slightly less than beneficial for two or three of them. I still have my rusty scalpel for the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon)—at Earl's Shell; we are going to use the desk.

At any rate, it is imperative that the impasse, which is now not just an intellectual exercise but an emotional impasse, be dealt with appropriately by the acceptance of these very rational amendments proposed by a member of the Liberal caucus. He has worked diligently to come up with a solution to the problem which would ensure that all the necessities embodied within the government's support for this kind of direction were achieved and that we could move in the direction of ensuring that good health care would be delivered by reasonably satisfied health professionals who had not been denied under any kind of legislation the same kind of freedom that is offered to all others in Ontario—within reasonable limits, within the kind of limits that



would ensure the people who might in any way be damaged or disturbed by unusual action or by broadly based action would be protected. That is precisely what he has done.

Let us seriously consider this. Let us ensure that members consider it seriously for the next 24 hours and then think seriously about the way they are going to vote on this amendment to section 2 of Bill 94. I do not think members are ready yet, because I do not believe they have thought about it as seriously as they should.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Is that a threat?

**Miss Stephenson:** No, it is not a threat. I am simply being absolutely reasonable in asking members to think about it very seriously so they will be prepared to vote on it when we begin the debate on this section tomorrow.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

ROYAL ASSENT

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin):** I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to a certain bill in his chambers.

**Assistant Clerk:** The following is the title of the bill to which His Honour has assented:

Bill 40, An Act to authorize the Raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
19	851	1	35	WITHDRAWAL OF BILL 106



## APPENDIX A

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

## BILINGUAL POSITIONS

**158. Mr. Guindon:** Would the Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs please provide a list of bilingual positions established since July 1, 1985, for each ministry and agency of the government of Ontario, together with the

classification and salary range for each position?  
[Tabled January 10, 1980]

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaître:** The following ministries and agencies have established new bilingual positions since July 1, 1985:

Ministry	Position	Classification	Salary range
Attorney General	Bilingual Supreme Court Reporter	Supreme Court Reporter 1	\$31,304 to \$36,660
	Solicitor	Legal PM 19-20	\$38,797 to \$50,875
Citizenship and Culture	Bilingual Community Program Consultant	Community Development Officer 2	\$30,400 to \$36,500
	Regional Manager	PM-19	\$38,797 to \$47,223
	Secretary	Clerk Steno 4	\$20,773 to \$23,067
Civil Service Commission	Secretary	Clerk Steno 3	\$19,478 to \$21,570
	Bilingual Administrative Assistant	Clerk 5 General	\$23,851 to \$26,912
	Bilingual Secretary	Secretary 4	\$20,773 to \$23,067
Community and Social Services	Program Supervisor	AM-19	\$38,797 to \$47,223
	Translator	Translator 2	\$32,200 to \$38,100
Government Services	Translator	Translator 2	\$32,000 to \$38,100
	Translator	Translator 2	\$32,000 to \$38,100
	Bilingual Information Officer	AM-17	\$35,085 to \$40,712
	Telephone and Mail Order Clerk	Clerk 4 General	\$21,259 to \$23,772
	Shipping and Receiving Clerk	Clerk 2 Supply	\$20,760 to \$21,775
	Receptionist Clerk Typist	Clerk 2 Typist	\$17,415 to \$19,201
	Bilingual Public Relations Officer	Public Relations Officer 3	\$33,684 to \$39,852



Ministry	Position	Classification	Salary range
Intergovernmental Affairs	Receptionist	Clerk Typist 3	\$18,612 to \$20,548
	Receptionist-Typist	Clerk Typist 3	\$18,612 to \$20,548
	Clerical Receptionist	Clerk 2 General	\$17,272 to \$19,609
	Public Relations Officer	Public Relations Officer 3	\$33,684 to \$39,852
Liquor Control Board	District Supervisor	A-3	\$35,917 to \$44,640
	Store Manager	Liquor Store Manager 2	\$27,861 to \$30,442
	Store Manager	Liquor Store Manager 1	\$24,744 to \$25,611
	Secretary to Personnel Director	Department Secretary	\$18,651 to \$23,279
	Wine Consultant Trainee	Wine Consultant	\$20,625 to \$22,314
	Wine Consultant Trainee	Wine Consultant	\$20,625 to \$22,314
	Wine Consultant Trainee	Wine Consultant	\$20,625 to \$22,314
	Secretary	Secretary 3	\$19,478 to \$21,570
Municipal Affairs	Receptionist	Clerk 3 General	\$19,713 to \$21,913
	Co-ordinator, Correspondence Control	Clerk 5 General	\$23,851 to \$26,912
	Bilingual Manager and Appeal Commissioner	AM-20	\$41,155 to \$50,875
Residential Tenancy Commission	Bilingual Appeal Commissioner	AM-19	\$38,797 to \$47,223
	Bilingual Commissioner	AM-18	\$36,913 to \$43,865
	Audience Relations Officer	N/A	\$20,097 to \$23,177
TVOntario	Production Manager	N/A	\$28,236 to \$42,352
	Executive Co-ordinator, French Educational Services	N/A	\$28,236 to \$42,352

Total number of positions designated since July 1, 1985: 37.



### CO-ORDINATORS OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**159. Mr. Guindon:** Would the Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs please provide a list of the ministries not having a permanent co-ordinator of French-language services, indicating whether the position is vacant or filled in an acting capacity, how long it has been vacant and when it is anticipated that the position will be filled by an appropriate classified person in accordance with existing policy? [Tabled January 10, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre:** A full-time French-language services co-ordinator's position is currently vacant in the Ministry of Health. This position has been vacant since October 1985 and is being filled on an acting basis by the administrative assistant to the former co-ordinator. The position is currently being reviewed and a decision is pending.

A full-time French-language services co-ordinator's position is currently filled by an

unclassified employee in the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. The ministry established a full-time position for a co-ordinator in 1985 but, owing to financial constraints, has filled the position with an employee on a contractual basis until December 2, 1986. The position will be classified in 1986-87.

### GOVERNMENT SPENDING

**191. Mr. McCague:** Would the Premier provide an enumeration of all costs incurred by his ministers in renovating, redecorating, erecting new offices for newly appointed ministers, or furnishing the offices which ministers and their staffs occupy, following their appointments on June 26, 1985? Would the Premier also indicate all costs incurred in the Premier's Office in renovating, redecorating and creating new office space since being sworn in as Premier? [Tabled January 16, 1986]

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** The following table is for the period from July 1, 1985, to December 31, 1985:

Ministry	Nature of work	Cost
Office of the Premier	Painting and drywall	\$2,400
	Restoration of furniture on loan from Ontario Heritage Foundation	6,700
Minister of the Attorney General	To accommodate staff requirements to manage the increased responsibilities of the Attorney General for women's issues and native affairs, the minister's office was reduced in size	15,200
Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations	Repair of wall covering	700
Ministry of Community and Social Services	Miscellaneous furniture and furnishings	1,100
Minister of Correctional Services	Miscellaneous furniture and furnishings	700
Minister of Energy	Miscellaneous furniture and furnishings	800
Ministry of Government Services	Miscellaneous furniture and furnishings	200
Minister of Municipal Affairs	Miscellaneous furniture and furnishings	500
Minister of Tourism and Recreation	Miscellaneous furniture and furnishings	3,100

### SKILLS TRAINING

**199. Mr. Partington:** Would the Minister of Skills Development detail the current budget

allocation for each and every program under his administration? [Tabled January 17, 1986]



**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** The answer is as follows:

	<b>1985-86 allocation</b>
<b>Youth programs</b>	
Employment disadvantaged programs	\$132,600,000
Ontario youth employment program	27,000,000
Summer Experience '85	13,000,000
Student venture capital	500,000
Youth venture capital	2,000,000
Total	<u>\$175,100,000</u>

**Ontario skills fund**

Training in business and industry	\$24,000,000
Technical upgrading program	15,080,000
Ontario training incentive program	5,935,000
International marketing intern program	2,100,000
Ontario help centres program	1,200,000
Employer-sponsored training	175,000
Community industrial training committees needs surveys	180,000
Community industrial training committees support funds	580,000
Women in skilled trades and technology fund	250,000
Training trust fund	500,000
Total	<u>\$50,000,000</u>

**201. Mr. Partington:** Would the Minister of Skills Development detail the number of clients currently being served under each and every

program of his ministry?

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** The answer is as follows:

	<b>Expected 1985-86 client participation</b>	
<b>Youth programs</b>		
Employment disadvantaged programs	56,000	Young people
Ontario youth employment program	45,000	Positions
Summer Experience '85	7,422	Young people
Student venture capital	1,120	Partners
Youth venture capital	1,650	Partners
<b>Ontario skills fund</b>		
Training in business and industry	105,000	Trainees
Technical upgrading program	8,415	Participants
Ontario training incentive program	1,159	Employers
International marketing intern program	282	Participants
Ontario help centres	9	Centres
Community industrial training committees needs surveys	22	CITC surveys
Community industrial training committees support funds	48	CITCs
Women in skilled trades and technology fund	8	Projects
Training trust fund	8	Trust funds



## FUTURES PROGRAM

**202. Mr. Partington:** Would the Minister of Skills Development detail any and all advertising and public relations contracts awarded by his ministry since he assumed office? In particular, what is the cost of the advertising program under way in January 1986 for Futures? [Tabled January 17, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** All advertising placement contracts awarded by the Ministry of Skills Development have been undertaken via the agency of record. Expenditures are listed below.

There have been no new contracts awarded for public relations since I assumed the office of minister.

Advertising placements expenditures—June 16, 1985, to March 31, 1986:

## Futures

Foster Advertising Ltd.	\$441,840.95
McKim Advertising Ltd.	27,927.78
Total Futures	\$469,768.73

## Ontario youth employment program 1985

Ministry of Municipal Affairs (Interact Ltd.)	43,451.22
Total	\$513,219.95

## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**203. Mr. Partington:** Would the Minister of Skills Development list the names, responsibilities and salaries of all unclassified staff within the ministry office? [Tabled January 17, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Sorbara:** A list of the staff within the ministry office was included in the answer to questions 46 to 71 under Colleges and Universities and Skills Development. One staff person, T. Carella, press secretary, in the salary range of \$36,913 to \$43,865, should be added to the list.

## SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE

**208. Mr. Swart:** Will the Minister of Financial Institutions instruct the superintendent of insurance for Ontario to revise the format of his annual report to require that losses and loss adjustment expenses be separately recorded in the provincial summary table of automobile insurance experience in Ontario? [Tabled January 28, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** At the present time, this suggested revision is not possible.

The superintendent's annual report is completed from the companies' statutory annual statement filings, and loss adjustment expenses are not segregated by line of business or by province in these statements. The losses and loss adjustment expenses for Ontario are listed in aggregate by line of business in the superintendent's report.

A subcommittee of the Canadian Council of Superintendents has been formed to revise the annual statement. I will instruct the superintendent to relay your request to this subcommittee.

## GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

**213. Mr. Cureatz:** Would the Premier please provide the following details of the October 1985 appointment of Don Stevenson to a newly created post as "Ontario's Man in Quebec": present salary; terms of reference; to whom does he report; benefits; budget; number of support staff; expenses to date, including entertainment of elected and nonelected Quebec officials; location—Toronto, Ottawa or Quebec City? [Tabled January 29, 1986]

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** In October 1985, the Premier appointed Donald W. Stevenson, senior representative to the Quebec government and senior representative to the federal government. Mr. Stevenson reports to the Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The terms of reference of the senior representative are:

Between Ontario and Quebec—To promote close relationships between the Quebec and Ontario governments and peoples by building contacts between Ontario ministries and their counterparts in Quebec; exploring areas of possible collaboration between the two governments; organizing meetings of groups of deputy ministers to discuss broader issues of concern to both governments; and promoting co-operative activities in the two provinces in nongovernment sectors such as education and culture.

Between Ontario and Ottawa—To improve communications on policy and public administration issues between Ontario and the federal government by arranging meetings for senior staff of the two governments and presenting Ontario's position on specific issues.

At Queen's Park—By acting as an adviser to the policy-making process on issues relating to Ontario's relationship with the two governments.

Mr. Stevenson's salary is \$86,398 per annum



plus equivalent benefits of other deputy ministers. Mr. Stevenson's office has one secretary.

As of February 21, 1986, the office operating expenses were: cost of office, \$2,788.28; travel and accommodation, \$6,145.01; and hospitality (Quebec City, \$737.71; Toronto, \$830.53; Ottawa, \$722.91), \$2,291.15.

#### INTERIM ANSWERS

**160. Mr. Guindon:** Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre—An answer will be ready for tabling on or about June 16, 1986.

**215. Mr. Rowe:** Hon. Mr. Peterson—An answer will be ready for tabling on or about June 30, 1986.

**257. Mr. Runciman:** Hon. Ms. Caplan—The information requested will take some time to assemble. The Ministry of Government Services will be co-ordinating the response, which will be available for tabling by June 13, 1986.

#### RESPONSE TO PETITION

##### ABORTION CLINIC

Sessional paper 24, re Morgentaler Clinic, 85 Harbord Street, Toronto.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** My role as Attorney General is to enforce the federal criminal law irrespective of my own moral or religious views. When the clinic opened, this ministry promptly laid charges against Dr. Morgentaler under the Criminal Code. He was acquitted by a jury following a full trial. Because of the importance of the legal issues involved and errors in the conduct of the trial, the Attorney General appealed to the Ontario Court of Appeal. Both the trial and the appeal were vigorously and effectively prosecuted by crown law officers in my ministry.

On October 1, 1985, the Court of Appeal upheld our appeal and found errors of law both in the judge's charge to the jury and defence counsel's jury address. The court held that these errors were "so fundamental that there has been no trial according to law" and ordered a new trial.

The Ministry of the Attorney General is prepared to proceed with a new trial as ordered by the Court of Appeal as soon as possible. However, Dr. Morgentaler has appealed the Court of Appeal's decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. It is clear that the trial court will not proceed to hear the charge, or indeed any other pending or newly laid similar charges, until the Supreme Court of Canada has finally ruled on the issue.

You will perhaps know that since Dr. Morgentaler's trial, the police did lay another charge against him. For the reasons stated above, it is not possible to proceed with this charge until the Supreme Court of Canada has rendered its decision on the outstanding appeal. It is anticipated that the Supreme Court of Canada will hear this appeal in October 1986.

You should also know that in respect of the first charge, the Ministry of the Attorney General asked the court to impose bail conditions so that Dr. Morgentaler could not operate his clinic while awaiting trial. The court refused that condition. My ministry appealed that decision, and that appeal was dismissed.

The crown law officers in my ministry have also given thorough consideration to the question of whether an injunction could be obtained in the present circumstances to close down the clinic. The opinion of the crown law staff is that such an injunction would not be granted on the basis of the traditional common law principle that the civil courts cannot enforce the criminal law. Indeed, such an effort was undertaken in the Court of Queen's Bench in Manitoba and failed. Under these circumstances, no further action can be taken until the results of the Supreme Court of Canada appeal are known.

We are doing everything we can to enforce the law as enacted by the Parliament of Canada. If the law is going to be changed to meet the wishes of either side of this hotly contested issue, it will have to be changed by the Parliament of Canada. It cannot be changed by the Legislature of Ontario or by the courts.



## APPENDIX B

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS\*

(125 members)

Second Session, 33rd Parliament

**Lieutenant Governor: Hon. L. M. Alexander, PC, QC****Speaker: Hon. H. A. Edighoffer****Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC**

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)  
 Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)  
 Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)  
 Baetz, R. C. (Ottawa West PC)  
 Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)  
 Bennett, C. F. (Ottawa South PC)  
 Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)  
 Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)  
**Bradley, Hon. J. J.**, Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)  
 Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)  
 Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)  
 Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)  
 Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)  
**Caplan, Hon. E.**, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Oriole L)  
 Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)  
**Conway, Hon. S. G.**, Minister of Education (Renfrew North L)  
 Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)  
 Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
 Cordiano, J. (Downsview L)  
 Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)  
 Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)  
**Curling, Hon. A.**, Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)  
 Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)  
 Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)  
**Eakins, Hon. J. F.**, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)  
**Edighoffer, Hon. H. A.**, Speaker (Perth L)  
**Elston, Hon. M. J.**, Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)  
 Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)  
 Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)  
 Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)  
 Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)  
**Fontaine, Hon. R.**, Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines (Cochrane North L)  
 Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)  
**Fulton, Hon. E.**, Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L)  
 Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)  
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)

Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)  
 Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)  
**Grandmaitre, Hon. B. C.**, Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)  
 Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)  
 Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)  
 Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)  
 Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)  
 Haggerty, R. (Erie L)  
 Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)  
 Hart, C. E. (York East L)  
 Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)  
 Henderson, D. J. (Humber L)  
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)  
 Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)  
 Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)  
 Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)  
**Kerrio, Hon. V. G.**, Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)  
**Keyes, Hon. K. A.**, Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)  
 Knight, D. S. (Halton-Burlington L)  
**Kwinter, Hon. M.**, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Wilson Heights L)  
 Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)  
 Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)  
 Leluk, N. G. (York West PC)  
 Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)  
 Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)  
 Mancini, R. (Essex South L)  
 Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)  
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)  
 McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)  
 McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)  
 McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)  
 McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)  
 McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)  
 McKessock, R. (Grey L)  
 McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)  
 McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)  
 Miller, F. S. (Muskoka PC)  
 Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)  
 Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)



Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of Committee of the Whole House (Carleton East L)  
 Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)  
**Munro, Hon. L. O.**, Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Hamilton Centre L)  
 Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)  
**Nixon, Hon. R. F.**, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)  
 O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)  
 Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)  
**O'Neil, Hon. H. P.**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)  
 Partington, P. (Brock PC)  
**Peterson, Hon. D. R.**, Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
 Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)  
 Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)  
 Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)  
 Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)  
 Polsinelli, C. (Yorkview L)  
 Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)  
 Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)  
 Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)  
 Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming NDP)  
 Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)  
 Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)  
**Riddell, Hon. J. K.**, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)  
 Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)  
 Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)  
**Ruprecht, Hon. T.**, Minister without Portfolio (Parkdale L)  
 Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)  
**Scott, Hon. I. G.**, Attorney General (St. David L)  
 Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)  
 Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)  
 Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)  
 Smith, E. J. (London South L)  
**Sorbara, Hon. G. S.**, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (York North L)  
 South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)  
 Stephenson, B. M. (York Mills PC)  
 Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)  
 Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)  
 Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)  
**Sweeney, Hon. J.**, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)  
 Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)  
 Timbrell, D. R. (Don Mills PC)  
 Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committee of the Whole House (Oxford PC)

Turner, J. M. (Peterborough PC)  
**Van Horne, Hon. R. G.**, Minister without Portfolio (London North L)  
 Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)  
 Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)  
 Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)  
 Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)  
 Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)  
**Wrye, Hon. W. M.**, Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)  
 Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

### MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
 Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue  
 Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education  
 Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment  
 Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services  
 Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines  
 Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General  
 Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food  
 Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation  
 Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy  
 O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology  
 Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services  
 Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health  
 Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour  
 Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs  
 Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing  
 Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communication  
 Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services  
 Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations  
 Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture  
 Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development



Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio

Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio

### PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Cordiano, J., assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Downsview L)

Epp, H. A., assistant to the Treasurer (Waterloo North L)

Ferraro, R. E., assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wellington South L)

Haggerty, R., assistant to the Minister of Government Services (Erie L)

Henderson, D. J., assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Humber L)

Mancini, R., assistant to the Premier (Essex South L)

McGuigan, J. F., assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Energy (Kent-Elgin L)

McKessock, R., assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Grey L)

Miller, Mr. G. I., assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Offer, S., assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mississauga North L)

Poirier, J., assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Prescott-Russell L)

Polsinelli, C., assistant to the Minister of Labour (Yorkview L)

Reycraft, D. R., assistant to the Minister of Education (Middlesex L)

Sargent, E. C., assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Grey-Bruce L)

Ward, C. C., assistant to the Minister of Health (Wentworth North L)

### STANDING COMMITTEES

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Finance and economic affairs: members, Messrs. Ashe, Barlow, Bossy, D. R. Cooke, Cordiano, Foulds, Haggerty, McFadden, Morin-Strom, Sargent and Miss Stephenson; clerk pro tem, L. Mellor.

General government: chairman, Mr. McCague; vice-chairman, Mr. Dean; members, Ms. Bryden, Messrs. Cousens, Guindon, Ms. Hart, Messrs. Henderson, McKessock, Newman, Pollock and Pouliot; clerk, D. Deller.

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Regulations and private bills: members, Messrs. Callahan, Charlton, Cordiano, Cureatz, Ferraro, Haggerty, Hennessy, McKessock, Morin-Strom, Shymko and Wiseman; clerk, D. Deller.

Regulations and private bills: chairman, Mr. Callahan; vice-chairman, Mr. Haggerty; members, Messrs. Charlton, Cordiano, Cureatz, Ferraro, Hennessy, McKessock, Morin-Strom, Shymko and Wiseman; clerk, D. Deller.

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Health: chairman, Mr. Callahan; members, Messrs. D. S. Cooke, Cousens, Ms. Gigantes,



Messrs. Henderson, Mancini, Partington, Pope,  
D. W. Smith, Miss Stephenson and Mr. Ward;  
clerk, D. Deller.

\*Lists published on the first Monday of each  
month and in the first and last issues of each  
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No. 25

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**  
Tuesday, June 3, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, June 3, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## VISITOR

**Mr. Speaker:** I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon the Honourable Elwood N. Veitch, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs for British Columbia. Welcome, sir.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### SENIOR CITIZENS' SERVICES

**Mr. Dean:** In response to my recent question regarding the lengthy delay in the release of his white paper, the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mr. Van Horne) assured me that when I read his paper I would "agree this time was well spent." I have read his paper and I do not agree the time was well spent.

I was particularly disappointed to note that the paper did not include a plan for the integration of programs. While the paper mentions the need for integration, the fact that it took statements from four ministers to announce the release of the paper clearly indicates that such integration is still a long way off. By failing to provide concrete proposals for the integration of seniors' programs under one roof, the minister has avoided the toughest decision facing him in his portfolio.

The minister has also avoided dealing with the critical shortage of nursing home beds. While home care is clearly preferable to institutional care, the fact that institutional care is often unavoidable cannot be ignored.

Also, while the report does advocate more community care, the funding provided is insufficient to alleviate the current demand for beds in seniors' institutions. At the same time, the report makes no mention of increasing support for these facilities. In the year since this government took office, not one new nursing home bed has been allocated.

These are but two of the issues the minister has delayed dealing with, claiming he needs more time to study and consult.

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

**Mr. Mackenzie:** This past Sunday I had the privilege of attending a series of Volunteer Service Awards at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton at which the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) handed out more than 100 individual awards to residents of Hamilton area ridings. About 30 or 35 of the recipients were from my riding.

I was there with four other members, Liberal and Conservative, as well as one of my own colleagues. We had a very brief acknowledgement that we were in the audience. We then proceeded to sit there like a bump on a log for the next hour while the minister handed out all the awards, including those to people from my own riding.

I understand there was a little classier performance in Windsor and northwestern Ontario where the ministers at least had the class, the courtesy and civility to include the members who were involved where the awards were being presented to people from their ridings. I am wondering whether we have gone so far as to make this a partisan Liberal approach rather than a province of Ontario award. Perhaps the Liberal Party should pay for it.

## SOYBEAN EXPORTS

**Mr. McGuigan:** I rise to air a complaint that affects soybean producers in southwestern Ontario. The total Canadian oil seed industry is suffering severe economic depression. In western Canada, the canola or rapeseed crushing industry receives federal and provincial operating subsidies, while the eastern crushers of soybeans receive no such assistance.

Canada has a vast overproduction capacity for crushing oil seeds. The western canola crushers use the government subsidies as a means of lowering the domestic selling price of their products. Currently, the three eastern crushers, Maple Leaf Monarch Co. of Windsor, Canadian Vegetable Oil Processing of Hamilton and Victory Soya Mills Ltd. of Toronto, are operating at 70 per cent of capacity, and they expect declining production in the face of western Canada subsidies. Employment in these unionized plants is also adversely affected.



Subsidies to western producers should be withdrawn and the funds applied to all the crushers, eastern and western. The funds should be redirected to be used to assist our crushers in meeting export subsidies prevalent in the world market. It makes no sense to apply offsetting subsidies to eastern crushers as this money would be wasted. We think the government money should be used to develop export markets, and we call on all members to deliver this message to their federal members.

#### REGIMENTAL REUNION

**Mr. Brandt:** In February, I was approached by Jack Hayes, president of the 26th Battery Association. The 26th Battery was to be this year's host for the regimental reunion, an event that takes place every two years. This year, the reunion was planned for May 16 in the great community of Sarnia and was to involve up to 150 veterans.

Mr. Hayes inquired with me about some financial assistance from the provincial government to host the event. I advised him to write to the Premier (Mr. Peterson), care of the office of protocol services, and apply for a hospitality grant. I also wrote the Premier in support of the 26th Battery's request. In April, the Premier replied that the 26th Battery's application was being taken under consideration by the hospitality committee. That was the last they heard about the matter from either the Premier or the hospitality committee.

I have a letter from Mr. Hayes expressing the 26th Battery's disappointment over the lack of response from the government. He finishes his letter by saying they carried on regardless. That is the attitude that served our veterans so well in both world wars. They carried on regardless, often despite overwhelming odds, and in this case despite being ignored by the current government.

On behalf of the 26th Battery and on a personal note, I express my disappointment to the Premier on how this issue was handled. I will send the related correspondence over to him.

#### COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

**Mr. Breagh:** Mr. Speaker, today I have something for you to consider. This year will be the 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We have not been particularly active, even though we have an Ontario branch of the parliamentary association. I suggest that you and all members present

become more active in the parliamentary association. I believe very strongly in the parliamentary tradition. I would like to see the House recognize this auspicious occasion in some appropriate manner.

I would also like the House to consider what we have seen in other jurisdictions. For example, several American state legislatures entertain student parliaments, senior citizens' parliaments and things of that nature. We do not do much in this jurisdiction to recognize long service by members. That is also a matter I would like considered by our branch of the parliamentary association.

**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** By reducing pension payments.

**Mr. Breagh:** We may do something like that.

The main thrust of my concern is that the parliamentary procedure is an important one that has served democracy well. It deserves some recognition by our branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I am aware that in many parts of the world, people are trying very hard to get democracy to work through a parliamentary system. I believe parliaments have served us well, and we need to recognize that fact.

#### CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Mr. Sargent:** Yesterday in the New York Times there was a picture of Stephen Lewis, with the headline "Canada's Chief Delegate to the United Nations." The article praised him for his tenacity of purpose in his fight on the crisis in African countries. After a week of hectic negotiations, Stephen Lewis made all Canadians proud. For the first time in 40 years, the assembly finalized a plan to review Africa's devastated economies. A lot of us served as members with Stephen Lewis, and I want him to know we here in Ontario are proud of him.

#### HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

**Mr. Pierce:** It gives me great pleasure today to share with the members the accomplishments of the Fort Frances High School Muskie hockey team. Despite having a relatively small school population from which to draw the players, the Muskie team has had overwhelming success since its formation in the mid-1960s.

Since 1967, they have earned the right to compete 13 times in the All-Ontario High School Hockey Championship and have had the privilege of hosting the All-Ontario twice during that



period. During their previous 12 visits, the Muskie team collected one bronze and four silver medals. However, during the most recent All-Ontario tournament in Oakville this spring, the Fort Frances Muskie team won its first gold medal. Emblematic of high school hockey supremacy in Ontario, their victory is made sweeter by the thought that this season—

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**2:12 p.m.**

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

### FOREST FIRES

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I would like to tell the members of the House about what could be called miracles that have been performed by hundreds of people across northern Ontario over the past week or so.

The term "miracles" might seem a bit sensational, but it captures the flavour of what I saw last week when I flew by helicopter over a major fire northwest of Red Lake. That fire, which is still not under control, has destroyed 475 square kilometres, or more than 100,000 acres, of forest, including valuable timber and wildlife habitat.

Red Lake 7 is only one of the 28 fires burning in Ontario right now. It has been slowed to a crawl by four days of cool, damp weather, but it is still potentially dangerous, as is the situation across the north.

As a result, the restricted fire zone has been extended to Friday in the northwest, but it has been lifted in the north-central, northern and northeastern regions of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

We are taking advantage of this slight break, which included some rain in the Red Lake area last night. Right now, fire officials are scrambling to gain as much ground as they can on fires and to get as many crews and as much equipment into place as they can.

This is just the start of the fire season. We have the rest of the spring and the whole of the summer ahead of us, and it could be a long, hot one.

Given the danger we face, I would like to underline the province's forest firefighting priorities.

Our first priority is people; public safety is always our first priority. The second priority is private property, and the third is the protection of other resource values. That is our value system in a nutshell.

We can be thankful this province has developed a heck of a system to meet these priorities. On my recent trip north I saw a smooth-functioning, skilled, dedicated organization, staffed by competent MNR people. I saw it in place, and I saw it working.

The other thing is that the residents of northern Ontario should be commended for their tremendous response to our restricted fire zone. The number of man-caused fires is reduced substantially as a result of the people of northern Ontario taking the restrictions to heart and being very careful.

Let me sum up briefly the forest fire situation in Ontario.

We have 28 fires burning on a total of roughly 1,200 square kilometres; some of them are so far north they are simply being observed.

Red Lake 7 now covers 473 square kilometres and is 15 kilometres north of Red Lake. Ground forces are establishing a 90-kilometre-long hose and bulldozer line along the eastern and southern boundaries.

Counting support staff, 500 firefighters are working on Red Lake 7, including 16 new crews which moved in Monday. They are being supported by nine bulldozers on loan from Great Lakes Forest Products Ltd.

The damage caused by Red Lake 7 has been extensive. Half the fire is in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park; the rest is in a valuable forest management unit through which a \$9.1-million access road was recently built.

The fire has also destroyed years of detailed forest management planning for that area; plans that had just been completed. So far only one tourist lodge has been lost to the fire, which also had the potential to envelop several others which were protected by ministry crews.

Across the province, almost 900 firefighters and 300 support staff are involved in operations, backed up by 14 heavy water bombers and 41 helicopters.

We have had some unexpected relief from the weatherman. That is good, but the benefits could be wiped out with just a few days of warm, windy weather.

**Mr. Pierce:** In response to the Minister of Natural Resources, this party wants to thank him for bringing us up to date on the forest fires as they are in the province today. I want to caution the minister that in formulating the final plans for any parks in northwestern Ontario, he should take into consideration the amount of land that is currently used by tourist operators, paper companies and lumber mills and make sure allocations



are made to provide for the losses that have resulted from the fires in northwestern Ontario.

As the minister has said in his statement, the people of northwestern Ontario have co-operated to the fullest. The companies in the area have put machinery and men in the bush under very extreme conditions to help bring the fires under control. The minister can show his response by taking into consideration what happens after the fire as well.

I also want to thank the minister for recognizing what he calls "one heck of a good system to meet these priorities."

**Mr. Bernier:** I rise to join my colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce) in thanking the Minister of Natural Resources for bringing this House up to date on the forest fire situation in northern Ontario, particularly in northwestern Ontario.

I had the opportunity of visiting the area last Thursday with His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. We were in the Round Lake area. We flew over the fire at the north end near North Spirit Lake and saw the devastation of that fire. We landed at Deer Lake and were greeted by a large number of native people who are anxious to help the minister and his ministry fight that fire.

**Mr. Speaker:** The member's time has expired.

**Mr. Bernier:** I just want to compliment the minister for using the natives of this province for firefighting. They do an excellent job.

**Mr. Pouliot:** We too would like to join in the accolades the Ministry of Natural Resources is receiving regarding the very dangerous forest fires. It was clearly a collective effort, and they were first and foremost in the line of action. What has been done is right, and I say to the minister with all sincerity, on behalf of the people not only of Lake Nipigon but also of northwestern Ontario, that he has done a job of which he must feel justifiably proud.

#### DRINKING AND DRIVING

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** My colleagues in this House are aware of and, I am confident, support the government's continuing commitment to the battle against drinking drivers. The battle is being joined by increasing numbers of citizens who are bringing home the message that drinking and driving is not acceptable social behaviour.

Today I would like to share some heartening news with my colleagues in the House, further proof that all of our citizens working together can successfully combat this social problem.

Recently my ministry commissioned a study by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation of Canada. We wanted an update on the drinking-driving countermeasures programs during December. All of us know of the intense efforts of police, citizens' groups and government to focus on the problem at that time of year.

The TIRF study found that during December 1985 the number of drinking-driver fatalities and the number of impaired-driver fatalities dropped to historic lows. Furthermore, during last December the percentage of driver fatalities tested for blood-alcohol content who had BACs over the legal limit also decreased to the lowest levels on record for any month of any year in Ontario.

By way of illustrating this dramatic decrease, I should point out that in the month of December, during the 10-year period 1973 through 1982, an average of 41.9 per cent of drivers who died were legally impaired. In December 1985, the comparable figure plummeted to 7.4 per cent.

The TIRF study shows that over the past three Decembers Ontario has experienced a drop in alcohol-related fatal accidents unparalleled anywhere in Canada. To quote from the report, "The decreased numbers and percentages of drinking-driving fatalities most likely reflect direct and specific effects of the many actions taken to prevent impaired driving during December."

The report concludes that the Ontario experience demonstrates the general effectiveness of broadly aimed, nontargeted countermeasures such as those implemented during recent December periods.

All of us in this Legislature realize, however, that the cost inflicted on Ontario's citizens by drinking drivers is still far too high. In 1984, more than 550 persons were killed and 27,000 persons were injured in Ontario accidents where alcohol was a factor. These accidents also cost the people of this province more than \$200 million.

These statistics graphically demonstrate that we cannot relent in our war against drinking and driving. My ministry will continue to develop new programs and initiatives to combat this problem, and I look forward to the continued support of my colleagues on all sides of the House as we try to rid our roads of the drinking driver.

**Mr. Runciman:** I rise to express our party's pleasure at the statistics the Attorney General announced today. It is incumbent upon us as well on this side of the House to indicate that we cannot help but be struck by the sheer hypocrisy of the government on the one hand talking about



impaired drivers and on the other hand promoting the increased sale of alcoholic beverages through beer and wine sales in grocery stores.

I want to provide him with some other statistics. Last year, Brewers' Retail refused service to more than 384,000 potential customers. We do not see that kind of scrutiny occurring in grocery stores.

The local option provision that has been speculated about in the media probably will encourage increased driving to acquire alcoholic beverages, commuting from dry to wet communities.

The increased number of outlets of alcoholic beverages—it is speculated there will be between 7,000 and 11,000 new outlets on the market—and increased operating hours will result in increased incidents of impaired driving. Virtually all experts agree on this.

This government is ignoring the facts to keep, as the *Toronto Star* said today, an off-the-cuff campaign promise. This is a promise that, if followed through, will result in a rapid reversal of the very positive trends the minister announced today.

**Mr. Rae:** I want to comment on the statement made by the Attorney General. First, the figures he has published today demonstrate that when we are serious about dealing with the problem of drinking and driving, we can do a great deal to reduce it and we can do a great deal to save lives.

It is now incumbent upon government to look seriously at the reduce impaired driving everywhere program. It is an expensive program in terms of the number of policemen who are put on duty to deal with drinking and driving, but in Metro Toronto it has been an effective program. If it works, we ought to look at ways of continuing to fund that program for a longer period of time than just during the Christmas period. One thing the statistics show, as well as a dramatic reduction in the month of December, is that those numbers change dramatically when the program ends. We all realize that with the increased possibility of people being caught the incidence decreases dramatically. We understand that feature of human behaviour.

I cannot help commenting at this time with respect to the Attorney General's statement that one of the major reasons he was advocating the sale of beer and wine in corner stores was that it would reduce the distance that people had to drive to pick up a case of beer or a bottle of wine. He was putting this forward as a serious argument in defence of what I think is increasingly being seen across the province as an indefensi-

ble and very dumb idea, that is, the sale of beer in corner stores.

If anything, the government has managed to make a dumb idea even dumber by proposing the notion of local options. That means there will now be an actual incentive for people to drive from dry areas to wet areas to purchase alcohol at times of the day when they cannot purchase it where they live. All he is really doing by this amendment is encouraging people to drive longer distances to get access to alcohol. It undermines entirely the argument the Attorney General was initially making in defence of the indefensible.

In the light of what is clearly a common commitment in this Legislature to reduce the incidence of accidents on the road, to save lives, to save the future of those people who are driving and who are often hit by impaired drivers and to save the lives of those who are impaired themselves, this government has a responsibility not to introduce any measure that could increase the number of accidents on the road.

For that reason alone, the idea of the sale of beer and wine in corner stores, with the addition of the local option, is an idea I hope will not come in Ontario.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS MONTH

**Hon. Mr. Van Horne:** It is a pleasure for me to announce that June is Senior Citizens Month in Ontario. This is the 16th anniversary of the province's tribute to its seniors, and I am particularly honoured, as Ontario's first minister for senior citizens' affairs, to be making this announcement to the House today.

The theme for this month's celebrations is "We're Getting On With Life," and I want to tell the members that no truer statement could be made of Ontario's senior citizens. In the past year, I have had the opportunity to visit communities throughout Ontario while I conducted a review of the services offered by the province. I have learned at first hand the contributions and achievements of our seniors, and it is a privilege to rise in this House and salute this growing segment of our population.

The focus of the province's tribute to seniors will be the presentation of the Senior Achievement Awards at 6:30 this evening in the main foyer of the Legislative Building. Seniors' clubs and community organizations, as well as the general public, were asked to nominate seniors in their areas who have contributed to the quality of life in Ontario.

We received more than 500 nominations, but with the help of the head of the Ontario Advisory



Council on Senior Citizens, Ivy St. Lawrence, Doug Rapelje from Niagara, the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) and the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner)—and I note in parentheses to the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) this is an indication that this is a totally nonpartisan operation—we were able to choose 22 recipients of the Senior Achievement Awards. They are:

Raoul Bernard, Hearst; Sister Constance, Willowdale; James Noble Davidson, Kenora; Dr. James Duncan Galloway, Burlington; Verdun J. A. Gauthier, Longlac; Miss Hope Holmsted, Richmond Hill; Mrs. Joyce King, Tottenham; Max Mandel, Toronto; Mrs. Marjorie Margaret Mann, Nepean; John Maracle, Ohsweken; John Martin, Windsor; Mrs. Frances McHale, London; Mrs. Olive Mitchell, Toronto; Antonin Pigeon, Plantagenet; Titus Porter, Ohsweken; Miss Laura Sabourin, Cornwall; Raghbir Singh Sandhu, Mississauga; Dr. Helene L. Shingles, Sarnia; Mrs. Florence Smith, Prince Albert; Mrs. Joy Stuart, Kingston; Peter Wai-Tsoi Wong, Etobicoke; and Mrs. Mary Wood, Woodbridge.

To help promote local events which focus attention on seniors, the government of Ontario has produced a poster emphasizing the meaning of this year's theme, "We're Getting On With Life." The message is clear: Senior citizens have the drive and determination to take charge of their lives and remain self-sufficient in their own communities.

For many, 65 has become the "age of opportunity." Seniors explore new ventures and participate in more activities than ever before. In Ontario, we have thousands of seniors who volunteer their time and skills to help others; some start a new career or return to school; others pursue new interests.

I hope members will join me in this tribute to Ontario's seniors by celebrating this very special month at local events in their own communities.

**Mr. Dean:** I join the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs in noting the commencement of Senior Citizens Month in Ontario. In the statement he read, he exhibited enough grace to recognize the initiative of previous governments of Ontario in first setting aside a week and later a month, June, to pay tribute to seniors.

I join with him also in recognizing the particular contributions of certain outstanding seniors in Ontario who are going to be recognized for the second year in this province for their notable contributions to our communities in

various places. I will be pleased to be present later today.

In his statement, the minister has indicated that in the past year he has had many opportunities to visit communities and meet certain of the seniors. I would have thought that in all that consultation he would have been able to glean enough information for other seniors' initiatives which are still somewhere in the limbo of his ministry and he would not need to delay still further doing the things we all agree are necessary for seniors.

**Mr. Rae:** I would like to begin by congratulating the winners of the Senior Achievement Awards. They have the best wishes of our party.

This month my grandmother will be celebrating her 100th birthday, and I am especially conscious—

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** We will give her a QC.

**Mr. Rae:** She still votes New Democrat, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure you of that. She always has.

I want to congratulate the winners, to say how very proud we are to be participating in these awards and to thank the minister for his announcement today.

#### VISITOR

**Mr. Rae:** While I am on my feet, I wonder whether I may take the opportunity to introduce in our gallery the leader of the New Democratic Party in the Yukon and indeed the leader of the government in the Yukon, Tony Penikett.

2:34 p.m.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### EXTRA BILLING

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question for the Premier. Can he tell us whether during the secret discussions with the Ontario Medical Association, the Premier, the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) or the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) made an offer to the OMA to allow doctors to extra bill under certain circumstances?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I was not at all the meetings. I will happily refer this to the Minister of Health, who was there and who would be very happy to discuss the issues with the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Premier wish to refer this to the Minister of Health?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I would be very happy to do so.



**Hon. Mr. Elston:** We put a set of proposals on the table before the OMA, which have become known as the 10-point proposal. In that, we said we would discuss any way or any mechanism that would provide the OMA with some flexibility, some degree of independence or arm's-length-type relationship with the government to resolve issues or disputes. We discussed a lot of items about which we told this House last week.

**Mr. Grossman:** This is the fourth or fifth opportunity the minister has had to duck answering the question. This morning he will have received a letter from Hugh Scully, chairman of the board of directors of the OMA, dated June 2 and addressed to the minister, which reads as follows:

"There appears to be some confusion about two items discussed during our 'secret' negotiations. Perhaps I can clarify it.

"1. Over the course of several meetings, you and Mr. Scott repeatedly and forcefully offered to allow all physicians to opt out and extra bill at will in the event that fee negotiations failed to produce an agreement."

Given that the minister apparently made the offer to the OMA to allow extra billing, how could he have done that, knowing this would be in clear contravention of the Canada Health Act and would eliminate his opportunity to claim back the \$53 million?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman did not read the entire letter. I did not receive this until this morning, just as he did; perhaps he assisted in delivering it, I do not know.

The situation is quite clear. In those negotiations, we discussed a whole range of opportunities to provide flexibility and innovation. During the discussions, we were searching for ways to come to grips with a concern that was expressed by the membership of the OMA, which was that it wanted to have something wherein it could see there was a certain independence or lever it could exercise. We discussed all kinds of options in those meetings. We were unable to come to any type of an agreement.

**Mr. Grossman:** That was not the question.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The question was, what did we discuss. We discussed all kinds of things that would provide an opportunity for providing them with independence from the government. They did not want to be seen to be giving the government unilateral authority over the OMA. We discussed a series of options. We were pleased to discuss and explore those.

**Mr. Grossman:** So that the minister cannot accuse me of leaving out important parts of this letter, I will read the next part.

"We maintain that the decision to opt out is a matter of individual freedom and should not be viewed as part of any collective action.

"2. At no time during our discussions did you or Mr. Scott offer the OMA binding arbitration as a means of resolving disputes arising out of fee bargaining."

That is the entire content of the letter. I would point out that item 2 directly contradicts what the minister said in the House last week.

In any event, in my final supplementary I want to ask the minister this question, because he refused to answer it a moment ago: Why would he have made that offer? We know it was not accepted. Why would he have made that offer in view of the fact that it contravenes section 18 of the Canada Health Act and would eliminate his opportunity to claim the \$53 million?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I think the honourable gentleman would like to know that we discussed all kinds of options. We also discussed very thoroughly the option put to us by the OMA, which also would have contravened section 18 of the Canada Health Act. He and I both know we were working inside that negotiating process to examine all kinds of options and opportunities that might be available to us.

Our concern was that no patient in the province should ever pay extra. We were concerned that we had an opportunity inside this mechanism to discuss a whole broad range of opportunities for us to come to a compromise position. At one time, we felt we were close to coming to some kind of a negotiated settlement. We talked about probably every kind of option available. That was our opportunity, and we decided we must examine where we could go. Those were thrown out and rejected. I cannot help that, but we were willing to discuss opportunities.

**Mr. Speaker:** New question.

2:40 p.m.

**Mr. Grossman:** The minister will not answer the question with regard to the Canada Health Act.

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** He gave a good answer.

**Mr. Grossman:** Of course he did not. I have another question for the minister as he continues to run and hide.

On May 27, in a speech to the Ontario Association of Registered Nursing Assistants in Sault Ste. Marie, he said as follows:

"The government accepted that there might be circumstances in which it was appropriate to provide payments to certain physicians over and above those currently made by the plan. Exam-



ples included physicians charging more than plan rates in recognition of excellence, experience," and a number of other matters.

Would the minister not agree that this directly contravenes as well section 18 of the Canada Health Act?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** No, I would not agree that this would contravene section 18. Our position has been that nobody should pay more for insured services, and we can assure people in this province that they will not pay more for insured services.

**Mr. Grossman:** Section 18 of the Canada Health Act reads, "In order that a province may qualify for a full cash contribution, no payments may be permitted by the province for that fiscal year under the health care insurance plan of the province in respect of insured health services that have been subject to extra billing by medical practitioners or dentists." Can the minister explain to us how he can reconcile his statement with section 18 of the Canada Health Act?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** It has come as no surprise to the honourable gentleman that we have for some time indicated our willingness to examine payments in recognition of merit and of other things that put pressures on practitioners with respect to their belief that the fee schedule is inadequate. We indicated as well in our 10-point proposal that we were quite willing to work with the Ontario Medical Association to deal with concerns that have been raised by the general practitioners, who feel they have fallen behind specialists in relation to rewards.

In that sense, we were willing to work along with the OMA to provide special funds that would provide some flexibility in meeting the needs of the physicians in the province so that we could meet some of the concerns that have been set out for us in some of the forums we attended and, quite frankly, during the discussions we have had with both individuals and groups of practitioners.

**Mr. Grossman:** This will be the sixth question this afternoon in which the minister will be invited to deal with the Canada Health Act. I predict that for the sixth time he will refuse to deal with whether his offers comply with the Canada Health Act. The reason the minister ought to deal with it is that he has clearly dishonestly been telling the public that he will be getting \$53 million back when he has offered it away.

My final supplementary—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member accused the minister of being dishonest. Would the member withdraw?

**Mr. Grossman:** I will withdraw that. I was making a point.

Would the minister not agree that, with the amendments he has tabled to Bill 94, extra billing can occur and can be stopped only by patients taking action to get the money back? Would he not agree that some patients obviously, having received a bill, could pay it and not complain? If that is the case, once again section 18 of the Canada Health Act will not have been complied with and the minister will not get the \$53 million.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The honourable gentleman will understand that the intent of the legislation is to eliminate extra billing. It does that, in my opinion, with respect to extra charges. It makes them illegal. We have mechanisms we think will catch those situations and we are prepared to use those mechanisms when they are passed into law.

That is the intent of the legislation. It is clear to me that this legislation complies with both the spirit and the intent of the Canada Health Act. I have been asked whether it does; I believe it does. We have had communications at staff level with people in Ottawa, and they believe it does; so we feel relatively certain.

I have again had to prove the honourable gentleman wrong. I addressed his question on the Canada Health Act very fully and completely.

#### PENSION FUNDS

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations about the arguments that counsel for the Pension Commission of Ontario have been making in court concerning the Dominion Stores case, presumably on behalf of the government of Ontario represented by the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Can the minister explain why his counsel would have argued, and I quote from their factum, "The beneficiaries are not permitted to participate in any of these decisions," meaning the decisions with respect to the withdrawal of the surplus? Why would they make that argument when in their own factum they admit that between 1944 and 1984 the plan was a contributory plan and the employees themselves put money into the plan?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The leader of the third party will know the reason the statement was made was that under the contractual agreement there is no provision for that. That matter is before the courts. The case has concluded, but the judges have reserved judgement, and we will have to wait to see what they rule.



**Mr. Rae:** I am not asking what the courts are going to do. I am asking why the minister's lawyers are going into court and saying the employees have no right to be consulted, that they have no right to be told what is going on and that the union has no interest in the case, when the employees have contributed literally hundreds of thousands of dollars to that fund over the past 40 years. Why are his lawyers saying the workers of this province do not have the right to be consulted when they ought to be consulted?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The leader of the third party will know that under our proposed Pension Benefits Act, and in effect even before the act is introduced, we have made provisions that no withdrawal can be made unless all the parties who will be affected are given at least 30 days' notice. Having said that, in the case of Dominion Stores that was not a provision. There was no provision for that, and this is what the lawyers are saying.

**Mr. Rae:** The minister is not prepared to answer my earlier question, which is a basic question about the rights of employees today, not about some fictitious legislation that is going to come in. We may not even see it until the fall, if then. Why did the pension commission agree to allow the withdrawal of those tens of millions of dollars from the fund when there was no specific mention in the plan with respect to the withdrawal of surplus? In fact, it was not until a month later that the minutes were amended, the plan was amended retroactively to so-called permit the withdrawal. Why did the pension commission allow that on December 17 when there was nothing in the plan to deal with the question of withdrawal of surplus?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The pension commission is an arm's-length commission. In their opinion, based on their practices, they allowed it. Obviously, somebody disagreed and has challenged it in the courts. That determination will be made by the courts.

**Mr. Rae:** After the money is gone, the workers have to go to court and spend tens of thousands of dollars to get their own money back. That is the position the minister's pension commission is leaving the workers of this province in.

**Mr. Speaker:** New question.

**Mr. Rae:** It is a disgrace. The minister ought to be ashamed of himself for that kind of action.

#### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Premier. I am surprised he did not come to the House today

with a statement with respect to what happened at the free trade negotiations in Ottawa yesterday. I would have thought he would have made a statement. Perhaps he is too embarrassed by having been bamboozled by one of the great BS artists of the century and by having sold out the interests of Ontario when it comes to this trade discussion. The Premier now has admitted that he has no ability to say whether the question of the auto pact will be on or off the table. What is he going to do since it is clear the auto pact is on the table? What does he intend to do about it?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I knew I did not have to make a statement because I knew the honourable member would ask me about it. I will pass on his compliments to the Prime Minister. With respect to the question about the auto pact that the member has raised, there was considerable discussion about it last night. It was raised by us. I believe the other Premiers recognize the importance of that document. There was a very firm assurance from the Prime Minister last night that he would not raise the auto pact. I do not know where the member is getting the information he is presenting to us.

2:50 p.m.

**Mr. Rae:** It is almost sad to hear the Premier say that as if it were some kind of defence of the auto pact. It is not Canada that is going to put the auto pact on the table; it is the Americans who are going to put it on the table unless it is specifically excluded from the negotiations.

Why was that not made a condition before the Premier agreed to get on the free trade train, which he so clearly agreed to do last night?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** With great respect, the member's interpretation of what has gone on is dramatically oversimplified. If he checks with his friend Howard Pawley, he will recognize there are subtleties to this situation that may not always be apparent to the naked eye.

We agreed to the following yesterday: The first ministers will be meeting every three months to monitor the procedures and check the mandate over which they will have responsibility. The Prime Minister recognized last night that, at the same time, the provinces will have a formal role in any ratification, should that come about.

We are monitoring that on a three-month basis. If that proves inadequate, then we can change the procedure. That is what was agreed to last night. Some would argue that was a constructive exercise in nation-building, while others, perhaps like the member, would say we should walk away, let the thing go on and have to accept what is handed to us.



I do not have to apologize to my friend opposite about the strong position we have taken on the auto pact. The Prime Minister and everyone else realize that. The member is interpreting things that have been said in the United States. There have been a great many miscellaneous comments on the trade issue, about what is on and off the table. I have heard them and the member has heard them. He has heard them in conflict. He has heard the negotiator say one thing and the ambassador say other things about social programs and a variety of other things.

At this moment, we should not react to every person who has something to contribute on this as saying definitively it will or will not be on the table. It is my very strong view that the automotive pact should not be on the table. We will use our very best efforts and our authority in this matter to prevent alterations that are detrimental to Ontario.

**Mr. Rae:** The Premier has now made the auto pact about as safe as a BC shingle. That is the state of play with respect to the auto pact.

A veto is only good if one uses it. Since the Premier has boasted almost from the beginning that he has a veto and that Ontario has a veto, given what has happened over the past two weeks with respect to the number of statements about what the Americans think is now on the table, both with respect to cultural industries and the auto pact, and given the imposition of this very unfair tax on our cedar shingles and shakes and the tax on our steel exports, why does he not exercise his veto now when it might have some impact and change the very nature of these discussions, so that instead of having a broad free trade negotiation, we have discussions that are restricted to those issues which are in the interest of Canada and not in the interest of the United States to raise in the negotiations?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I wish life were that simple. As the member knows, there are no similarities to the auto pact, which is not a free trade agreement. The member will agree it is a managed trade agreement. It has a one-year termination clause, i.e., either side could give notice of termination a year from now. That is unlike the shingles and shakes issue to which he tried to equate it, where there was presidential action.

I am of the view that Ontario, *de facto* and *de jure*, has a responsibility in the ultimate ratification of this agreement or refusal to accept it. The member would argue, I gather, that if we stood up today, picked up our baseball bat and ran

away, all these other problems would solve themselves. That is the view he just articulated in this House. I do not think anybody in this country who is close to the issue shares that view, including other people of the member's persuasion and those who share his point of view.

We are facing a worrisome situation at the moment. I am starkly aware of the irony of trying to discuss a trade agreement, on the one hand, and fighting a trade war on the other hand. However, those things are going on at the moment.

Some would argue for a so-called stand-still agreement. However, do we have the power to impose that? What would be the effect if we walked away from the table? Those situations are currently a matter of speculation.

### EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

**Mr. Gillies:** My question is of the Minister of Labour. He may be aware that yesterday the minister responsible for women's issues, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), was not in the mood to talk about women's issues, as is often the case; so I will ask the Minister of Labour the same question.

Is his commitment to pay equity just public relations and verbiage or is it real? Will the minister be bringing Bill 105, the public sector pay equity bill, into this House by the end of the month for second reading debate so that it can go to committee for consideration this summer?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** The exact timing of the business of the House is normally determined by the government in consultation with the various House leaders. I am sure that will continue to be the case. As the honourable member knows, this party remains firmly committed to bringing forward Bill 105 at the appropriate time and to moving forward with pay equity, something the previous government refused to do.

**Mr. Gillies:** With the confusion over there, I say, "Point made." We have a concern and women have a concern about the quote by the Attorney General last week. He knows this party will be moving amendments to that bill. Very likely the third party will be doing so. The Attorney General said, "This is a plot to shipwreck and delay the public sector bill." Will the minister dissociate himself from that outrageous observation, fulfil his commitment to bring this bill forward and not try to hang any delay on the opposition members?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** What is most outrageous of all is to hear that party, which had years and years



to bring pay equity forward, now pontificating as if it were concerned about it. That is absolutely silly. I thought the honourable member opposite would understand that an attempt to bring forward an amendment to Bill 105 to include the wider public sector within the present parameters of the bill would effectively force a complete and substantive rewrite of Bill 105. As my colleague the Attorney General has said, that would have the effect of shipwrecking the legislation.

**Mr. Gillies:** That is absolute nonsense. The opposition can move to amend any bill and the minister knows it.

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** My friend is correct. Theoretically, the opposition can bring forward substantive amendments. If the opposition is prepared to bring forward amendments, I hope they will be such that the overall intent of the legislation will not be shipwrecked and that we will not delay this very important initiative for women in the public sector.

**Ms. Gigantes:** My question is for the minister responsible for women's issues. I would like to ask him precisely the same question. How dare he say the opposition is holding back this legislation and trying to shipwreck the legislation when he will not bring it forward? How dare he?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** I never actually thought about it in that way before. I think we are proceeding properly. I do not think the government has anything to apologize for. We are waiting until the consultation process is completed.

**3 p.m.**

**Ms. Gigantes:** The minister has had positive indications from both opposition parties in this minority House that they wish to deal with this bill as quickly as possible and that they have positive amendments to make to it. Will the minister explain to us why the government is delaying bringing it forward?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** As I have indicated on several occasions, apart from the consultants, there are a business advisory group and a trade union advisory group.

**Mr. Rae:** They want the bill brought forward.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** If the member wants an answer to the question, let him just listen.

Both groups have made application for support from the government to enable the trade union group to do studies over the summer about pay equity. We have indicated to the trade unions that we will support that plan of theirs. The trade union members came to us yesterday and made a

proposal in which they sought government support for studies to be done this summer.

**Mr. Rae:** We know the minister's respect for unions.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** Do not panic because I mentioned trade unions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have stated on many occasions, please disregard the interjections. They are out of order.

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** When that proposal was made by the trade unions, it paralleled a proposal that had been made by the business advisory group. Both contemplated that their studies would be completed by mid-August, and the government acceded in principle. We have not worked out the precise details of the projects in which they are going to be engaged.

We think a significant contribution is being made by business groups and by the trade union movement to the principle of pay equity in the private sector, and we want to support their efforts by supporting that kind of consultation. I am not ashamed of that process.

**Mr. Speaker:** New question; the member for St. George.

**Ms. Fish:** I want to ask my question of the minister responsible for women's issues. The minister will be aware that day care workers in this province are approximately 99 per cent women. They are dealing with what I think can clearly be described as our province's most precious resource, our children. Their average wage is 66 per cent of the average industrial wage in this province. What steps will the minister take to bring forward legislation to ensure pay equity for those women?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** The question of day care, or child care as it is now called, is being considered by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney). We are also considering, in the private sector and in the broader public sector, the extent to which the problems of child care workers can be responded to in a pay equity package. When we make the decisions and introduce the bill, the answer will be plain.

**Ms. Fish:** There are wide differentials even within those statistics of the pay that is accorded to those women dealing with children. Those in commercial centres earn approximately 30 per cent of those in nonprofit centres and approximately 50 per cent of those in municipal centres. If the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) has indicated his clear refusal to extend the existing Bill 105 even to the broad public sector and the municipal workers, how and when will the



minister reach pay equity for those at the bottom end in the commercial centres?

**Hon. Mr. Scott:** The government scheme is to introduce a bill that will cover the private sector and the broader public sector. It will include all the child care workers who are in the broader public sector and the private sector. There are certain problems about dealing with child care workers because, depending on the definition of "establishment" that is selected under the legislation, they may not have a comparison to make, as pay equity requires. I am very conscious of the problem to which the honourable member directs my attention. The bill will show the way the government intends to respond to it.

#### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Mackenzie:** I have a question of the Premier. With the latest announcement by the United States International Trade Commission imposing stiff tariff penalties on our steel, well-drilling and tubing products on the heels of the slap in the face we got in the cedar shake industry, should we not end the dishonest Mulroney charade and turn instead to negotiating a mechanism to deal with individual sectoral problems?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Some people have argued that these discussions should have taken a sectoral approach, industry by industry, but I understand there was no interest on either side in taking that approach. The member would argue, for example, that the steel industry problem should be attacked industry by industry. The steel industry has been subject almost to a managed agreement back and forth between the various industries and the steel caucus. It is not subject to a legal agreement, but it has been working itself out over a long and difficult period of time.

As I understand the mood of the federal government and the US government, that approach was no longer acceptable. It may be the member's idea, but I think they did not want to take that particular approach, and that is why it has been dismissed at this point. Even though the member may think it is a good idea, I do not think anyone else who is negotiating does.

**Mr. Wildman:** In view of the Premier's answer, in view of the fact that Algoma Steel Corp. is in a very serious economic squeeze and has already announced major down-sizing and in view of the fact that the recently announced tariff deals specifically with pipe, the major export of Algoma Steel, a section of the company that has been expanded recently, can the Premier explain

what mechanism he is proposing to protect the market share of companies such as Algoma Steel in the US and to ensure that these kinds of tariffs are withdrawn?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** As I understand it, the Canadian industry now has about 2.4 per cent of the US steel business. It has been subject to a great deal of pressure, and the sense is that if it got up to 2.8 per cent, it would be subject to countervail or a lot of other responses from the US.

I have asked myself the very same question. What are our legal options? I can tell the member that, as a province, unfortunately we do not have any legal options, to the best of my knowledge, although that canvassing of the options is not completely over at present.

Then the member would ask, "What are our political options?" Obviously, these things were discussed last night, the responsibility in bilateral discussions of the federal government. We put forward our concerns on this matter, as has Saskatchewan, the home of International Steel and Pipe Corp.

One of the realities of the situation right now is that it is not going to have an immediate short-term effect on Algoma or Ipsco, because nothing is happening there anyway; they are not selling anything in the US. However, it could have an effect in the long term, depending on an upturn of the market. Algoma got hit far less than Ipsco, as the member knows. Ipsco got hit for 41 per cent; Algoma was seen to be dumping and got hit for something like 14 per cent.

The point is that it is still serious. What would be the appropriate response? Some might argue—I guess the leader of the third party would argue—that I should pick up my briefcase, come back to Toronto and just yell at people.

**Mr. Foulds:** Oh, come on.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** That is what the member is arguing. Others would argue that the federal government has to use its credibility, whatever is there, between the Prime Minister and the President to try to get to a standstill and not allow any more of this to go on while a bilateral trade dispute-solving mechanism is organizing.

**Mr. Warner:** The Premier is trying to sit on the sidelines.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** If I may finish, I do not mean to be too long with respect to the question asked by the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie).

One of the things that will be discussed is a dispute-solving mechanism rather than going



through this plethora of options: countervail, the International Trade Commission or a variety of different agencies and groups that have rulings. If some regularized mechanism could be found to solve these disputes on a bilateral basis, probably we would all be winners; I am sure that is something even the member opposite would like to see. That is one of the thrusts. It is going to be long and difficult, and I cannot tell the member what the outcome will be.

#### RELEASE OF PROSTITUTE

**Mr. Speaker:** The Solicitor General has the response to a question previously asked by whom?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** It was asked by the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling). I am sorry the member is not here today, but I can give the response to the House.

On Monday, May 26, the member for Carleton-Grenville asked why the Ottawa police force had released a woman they had arrested for prostitution, who was apparently carrying acquired immune deficiency syndrome antibodies.

I have subsequently been advised that this young woman was arrested on Friday, May 9, 1986. The Ottawa crown attorney was consulted, and she was held for the weekend pending a show-cause hearing on Monday morning. The medical officer of health was also advised.

On May 12, the accused appeared before a justice of the peace and was released subject to nine conditions. These included her attendance at the Royal Ottawa Hospital and that she enter into a drug rehabilitation program. She was prohibited from visiting the Byward Market area and was to follow an order under section 22 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act that she "not put another individual at risk."

The Ottawa police also advised that the accused did not live up to these conditions and failed to report as required to that force. A warrant was issued for her arrest, and she was apprehended on the same day on which the question was asked in the House. She appeared before another justice of the peace for a show-cause hearing and will be released on appearance on July 14. Police were not responsible for her release, but rather the courts.

**3:10 p.m.**

**Mr. Harris:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: When ministers are responding to a member's question, would it not be appropriate to have the member who asked the question in the House?

**Mr. Gillies:** It is a courtesy that was always extended. We always did it that way.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. There have been many occasions when people answering questions have risen and stated they had an answer for someone who is not here. Any other member has the opportunity, particularly the House leader of the party; I do not think it is up to the Speaker.

Does that complete the response?

**Hon. Mr. Keyes:** There is only one other sentence to it. I have given the essence of it, and I am quite happy to leave it as it is.

#### EASTWAY FORD

**Mr. Runciman:** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Why is his ministry threatening to terminate 70 jobs in St. Thomas by revoking the licence of Eastway Ford?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I am not aware of that situation. I will be happy to look into it and get back to the member.

**Mr. Runciman:** I appreciate that commitment by the minister. According to officials in the ministry, this action came as a result of a call made by some of Eastway's rivals in London to their local member, the Premier (Mr. Peterson). I ask the minister to look into the possibility that his ministry's motives are purely political and stem from an abuse of power by the Premier rather than from a concern for justice.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** As I said, I will look into the matter and get back to the member.

#### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Foulds:** I have another question on free trade for the Premier. With reference to the large number of things the Americans wanted on the table for free trade talks, he said last week, "That table could become more crowded than Thanksgiving at grandma's." What assurances does he have that northern Ontario softwood lumber will not be the next item on the United States hit list to crowd Grandma Reisman's table with Ontario jobs?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** At the outset, I want to thank the honourable member for reading my speeches. I appreciate that very much. My speeches do not bring as much joy in other quarters as they do to the member. I want him to know that.

**Mr. Rae:** It is a tough job, but someone has to do it.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** If the member has trouble, I will have someone read them to him.

The big concern in this country right now is a potential move on the softwood lumber question.



It is of grave importance to British Columbia particularly but also to other areas. One of the great surprises is that this shingles and shakes thing came right out of the blue. Apparently the federal government had no knowledge of it; so it says. On the other hand, it was warned by Premier Bennett.

I cannot stand in this House and give members my absolute assurances on these situations. I do know that the Prime Minister is going to put forward in the strongest terms to the President of the US that there should be no action whatsoever on the softwood lumber industry, but it has been under assault for a long time.

Believe me, I do not like to be in the position of defending the Prime Minister. I am just explaining; I am not defending, and the member understands that. I wish I could tell him with certainty that nothing will happen. I wish I could control it legislatively; we would do something about it. I cannot, in absolute candour, give 100 per cent guarantees. It has been the subject of a great deal of discussion, and I hope nothing will happen.

**Mr. Wildman:** The Premier is holding out hope, but is he aware that 94.5 per cent of Ontario's forest products exports go to the US and that the total exports of Ontario in 1983 amounted to \$6.1 million and accounted for \$618 million in payroll to northern Ontario? If he is, can he tell us how his hope is going to protect the exports, the share of the market and the jobs in northern Ontario? It did not protect the people in British Columbia. Also, this is not coming out of the blue; we have been under pressure for a long time.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I say to my honourable friend, I am aware of the problem. I am sure the statistics he quotes in this House are accurate. I know the importance of trade to this province. As he knows, we have roughly a \$20-billion trade surplus with the US; that has come under some siege lately. We have seen some initiatives, some attacks, counterattacks and retaliation. Protecting our markets is of great importance to this province, as it is to this country.

I put forward those views, as have others. We will continue to fight on.

**Mr. Mackenzie:** And do you think a private apology from Reagan to Mulroney is enough reason to continue?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I guess the member's colleague's view is that I should walk away and hope it does not happen to us.

**Mr. Wildman:** No.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** That is the view he puts forward. It is not our view at the moment. It is an option we will always have at some time or other in the future. However, those concerns have been put in the US by me personally and by a wide variety of other Premiers and federal people, including all parties across this country, I think, as to how important the relationship is. We are doing the best we can on a political level. We are involved in a tough fight at the moment.

#### BEACH POLLUTION

**Ms. Fish:** I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. The minister will know Toronto's beaches have been closed in the past few years because of the high counts of faecal coliform in the water from human and animal wastes. He will also be aware of serious allegations about the flagrant and regular dumping of human waste in the harbour in the port of Toronto. What specific steps is the minister taking to ensure that such dumping of human waste in the Toronto harbour does not occur?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** As the member will be aware, a number of factors contribute to the closing of beaches here in Metropolitan Toronto and across Ontario, one of which she has indicated.

I have asked for a report from people in my ministry regarding this practice. It seems the allegation was made off the record, according to the article the member and I saw in the paper, indicating that people were dumping illegally. Our investigations branch as well as people in the abatement branch are investigating this matter to determine how we can best deal with it.

First, it seems to me that those who are dumping legally should have a form. Some people will say, "Of course, that can be tampered with in some way," but that is subject to law as well. It should be a form that would clearly indicate they have gone through the appropriate procedure to avoid the circumstances we would be concerned about.

My ministry is investigating that, and I will be happy to report back to the member at the earliest opportunity.

**Ms. Fish:** The minister will be aware that his staff has indicated their principal difficulty is budgetary restraint. The minister has devoted \$9 million to water quality cleanup in the Toronto-area beaches. His own leader is on record as saying that is too little, too late and it should have been doubled to \$20 million. Will the minister undertake to live up to the promise of his leader and double the amount of money that is



committed to the cleanup of the water at Toronto's beaches?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I do not know whether that is a supplementary question, but I am not the Speaker, so I do not determine that for the member.

**Mr. Harris:** That is right; so answer the question.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) should not be so sore about it.

In answer to the member's specific question, the problem she is talking about, which emerged from the newspaper report, is a matter of enforcement. Even if we had an army of people along there, I suggest it might be hard to identify the specific people who are in contravention of that. We think a proper mechanism of reporting would be more important. That is only one aspect of it.

With regard to the other question, the member will know that at the last meeting of the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers, held here in Toronto in the fall, I encouraged the federal government to become joint partners in dealing with international waterways. She will also be aware that the previous federal government was involved in providing funds to assist in a cleanup of beaches. I have indicated very clearly that we are attempting to get the federal government on side in this. We are prepared to participate, along with the municipalities. I know the member will want to be of assistance by speaking to some of her federal friends to secure the federal funding that I think could make this go.

3:20 p.m.

#### HAZARDOUS SPILL

**Mrs. Grier:** I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. On May 12, Dow Chemical in Sarnia accidentally released four tons of carcinogenic vinyl chloride gas that blew over Port Huron, Michigan. Why did his ministry fail to notify authorities in Port Huron of this very serious occurrence despite agreements between the Department of Natural Resources in Michigan and the Ministry of the Environment in Ontario that require reporting of such incidents?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I must say to the member—

**Mr. Rae:** Just give him his answer.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** What did the leader of the third party say?

**Mr. Rae:** Just read the answer.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I am not supposed to do that; I am not supposed to reply to interjections.

I asked exactly the same question of the officials this morning. We have given that undertaking not only as a result of courtesy between the two sides—Michigan and Ontario—but also as a result of a formal agreement we have with Michigan. From time to time, communications have not been as they might be. I have indicated clearly my desire to see any and all incidents of this kind reported. The member has a valid contention. I intend to see that this happens.

**Mrs. Grier:** It is pretty serious when we blow vinyl chloride gas on Port Huron and when Detroit appears to be building the world's largest incinerator, which it acknowledges will blow dioxin on the residents of Windsor. Of what use is it to have agreements signed by the Premier and the Governor of Michigan, with much fanfare and photo opportunities, when it is only through the intervention of a federal agency in the United States that the incinerator is put on hold and when the Governor of Michigan refuses to back down and acknowledge that the incinerator will pose a threat to people in Ontario?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I wish I could read the member the note that was sent to me.

I am told that we did inform the Port Huron officials. I asked that question of ministry officials this morning, and the information given to me is that we informed Port Huron officials. I cannot read the second part of the note.

I heard the member talking about the general agreement between Michigan and Ontario. On most occasions, it has worked exceedingly well. The member will be aware through her extensive investigations that Ontario has intervened with the Governor's office in this case and has been involved in discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency in the US. I know David Balsillie of our ministry was at a meeting in Chicago some time ago to outline Ontario's concerns. We have been involved in ongoing meetings, through the accord we have with Michigan and through the provisions that are permitted by the Environmental Protection Agency, to ensure that Ontario's position is put very clearly. I think we are being effective in this regard.

#### HOUSING POLICY

**Mr. Gordon:** I want to thank our guest speaker. However, that is not the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I was wondering whether you had one.



**Mr. Gordon:** I have a question for the Minister of Housing. In today's *Globe and Mail*, the Fair Rental Policy Organization of Ontario came out with a full-page ad indicating it believes the government's housing solutions have failed. They do not see the private sector building any housing. Is the minister going to do away with Bill 78, or is he going to reintroduce it?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** It is surprising what the members on that side read and what interpretations they get. I read the ad myself, and it did not say that. The Fair Rental Policy Organization of Ontario is saying it recognizes that in the past the previous government neglected to bring in a comprehensive housing policy to tackle the lack of bringing affordable rental housing to the market.

The honourable member may not have had the opportunity to read the assured housing policy that was brought forward in December and addresses many of those solutions. I encourage him to go back and read the assured housing policy.

**Mr. Gordon:** The minister did not answer the questions of whether and when he is going to bring in Bill 78. He has been Minister of Housing for 46 weeks, and all we have had is a lot of hype, announcements and reannouncements about his assured housing policy and about Bill 78.

I am going to ask the minister a very simple question. As minister, he should not have any trouble answering it. Can he tell the people of Ontario exactly how many units of affordable rental housing have been built in this province in the 46 weeks he has been minister and in which municipalities?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** The member says we have been dealing with the introduction of this bill for 46 weeks. He should take one week for every year the previous government was in power and see what it did about bringing about affordable rental units. Under the assured housing policy we have introduced, 6,700 units have been approved.

He can also check the 5,000 units that have been addressed under the Renterprise program. If we look at the 6,000 under the convert-to-rent program that we also introduced, much more has been done than the previous government ever did towards bringing affordable rental units into this place.

#### RENT REVIEW

**Mr. Reville:** I have a question of the Minister of Housing relating to the same document. The minister has boasted about the new, improved

relationship between the government and landlords. We hear the landlords boasting they have a solution, but it is not an improved solution or a new solution; it is a solution that would be devastating to tenants.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure you have a question.

**Mr. Reville:** Will the minister tell the House whether his landlord friends have hung him out to dry? Has he extended the hand of friendship to landlords only to have it bitten?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I can appreciate the honourable member's question and his hesitancy in believing what is happening. Let me assure him that the rent review advisory group I have put together with landlords and tenants has come together and brought some very good recommendations to us.

As I have said before, it is not surprising the member has some doubts about whether we are dealing with the matter that way. Never in history have landlords and tenants sat down to resolve the problem. I do not think the previous government knew what a tenant looked like or what all landlords looked like. No, my hand has not been bitten. They have got together and they will continue to recommend any improvement on our landlord and housing positions.

**Mr. Reville:** The minister did manage to get the landlords to sit down, but they got up from the table saying something quite different. They are saying: "End rent controls. Bring in shelter allowances." Will the minister tell us which message we are to listen to: kill rent review or strengthen it?

**3:30 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** Rent review is a permanent structure for housing policy. It is here to stay, and it will continue to stay as long as this government is in power, which will be a long time.

**Mr. Gillies:** The minister's urban renewal policy is like Nero's.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Do not be hard on the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes).

#### CALIFORNIA WINES

**Mr. Andrewes:** My question is for the minister responsible for wine policy. Since the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) told us yesterday he has that responsibility at the Liberal cabinet table, and since his Premier has been very supportive of protecting the agricultural base in the province of Ontario, particularly at a time when Canada is involved in discussions on trade with the United States, will the minister



now demand that wines from California be removed from the menu at the Trillium restaurant at Expo?

**Mr. Speaker:** I have read Hansard from yesterday; I was not here. I understand the Minister of the Environment said something to the effect that he was responsible. I looked at the content of the question and, in my view, it should be directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton).

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I wish members would give me an opportunity. I said, in my view, it pertained to a matter dealing with a product sold in the Ontario Pavilion and it appeared to me it should be directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications, who is responsible for its operation. I will have to ask the Minister of the Environment whether he is in charge of the wine policy for the government.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I am just asking him whether he is.

**Mr. Harris:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: You are imputing something. The Minister of the Environment stood in his place yesterday and told us he was the member responsible. He told the whole House, including the Speaker.

**Mr. Gillies:** The chair upheld him.

**Mr. Harris:** How can we take all this time—

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** If I can be helpful, I just appointed him when I came back today.

**Mr. Harris:** On the point of order, he lied yesterday. I ask him to stand in his place and withdraw it.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Obviously, my friends opposite do not have a sense of humour. I misjudged them. That minister has taken special responsibility for wine policy for a good number of months now and organized the historic Niagara accord. He is quite entitled to speak on these matters for this party.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Since the members of the opposition party are so concerned about this matter relating directly to the Expo pavilion, I will allow the Minister of Transportation and Communications to answer.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The time for oral questions has expired.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### WINDSOR YOUTH MARCHING AND CONCERT BAND ACT

Mr. Newman moved first reading of Bill Pr4, An Act respecting the Windsor Youth Marching and Concert Band.

Motion agreed to.

### LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Shymko moved first reading of Bill 49, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Shymko:** The purpose of the bill is to allow landlords the freedom of choice to waive certain rights in favour of tenants. This is related to addressing the whole issue of affordable housing for the citizens of our province.

### RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Shymko moved first reading of Bill 50, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Shymko:** I want to add to my original comments on the first bill I presented for first reading. The purpose of this bill is also to allow the freedom of choice of certain landlords to waive their rights in favour of tenants. This again addresses the issue of affordable housing.

### ONTARIO BIBLE COLLEGE AND ONTARIO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ACT

Miss Stephenson moved first reading of Bill Pr18, An Act respecting the Ontario Bible College and Ontario Theological Seminary.

Motion agreed to.

3:40 p.m.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

### HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY ACT (continued)

Consideration of Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may Charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act.

On section 2:

**Mr. Chairman:** When we broke yesterday, the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) had made comments to the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) on his amendment. Perhaps the



member for Humber would like to reply to those comments.

**Miss Stephenson:** I thought we could—

**Mr. Chairman:** No. This is committee of the whole House and not debate. He can discuss things with the member and she can then come back again to discuss them.

**Mr. Henderson:** I did appreciate the remarks of the member for York Mills. She conveyed her observations and comments in her usual feisty but very good-natured way. I felt that in this instance she was also very sage, very wise and very prudent in what she had to say. If I may say so, she was also very politic because it is wise public administration to devise and perfect a system that preserves goodwill and is, therefore, likely to work.

I especially want to convey my concurrence with or echo her observation that the issue in this matter is freedom. The first issue is freedom of physicians. One often asks why physicians place such particular importance on professional freedom and seem to value it so very highly. I can only say in response to that kind of implicit question that one must think of the incredible advances in technology and medical science in a whole array of disciplines and fields in which a physician must remain abreast; of the ongoing, thorough understanding of fundamental clinical disciplines that he must preserve and have at his fingertips at all times; of the incredible pace and work load of the modern clinical practice of physicians who work day and night on behalf of their patients; of the necessity also to maintain collegial relations with colleagues, work on shared-duty systems and participate in hospital committees; and of the obligation increasingly placed on modern physicians to justify and interpret all that to a sometimes sceptical public at the same time as maintaining empathy and sensitivity towards patients.

If one is going to ask a professional person to maintain that kind of balancing act, then the government had better not start off by placing him in a straitjacket. I believe, as many of my colleagues do, that this matter of professional freedom is no self-serving interest but is indeed a professional freedom that must be preserved on behalf of excellence in patient care.

Second, there is an issue of freedom of patients which has been raised by my amendments. To seek out the physician of one's choice and to seek a physician with whom one can arrange the contractual arrangements of one's choice is a very important and very precious kind of

freedom and one that deserves to be preserved in a democratically governed society.

There is also an issue of the freedom of minorities. In government and in this Legislature, we speak a lot about visible minorities. I believe there is also an issue of the rights of nonvisible minorities, by which I refer to that group of patients that wishes to be free to make contractual arrangements of its choice with its physician and that nonvisible minority of physicians who wish to exercise the right to practise their art and science at arm's length from the state.

There also is an issue of freedom of elected members. I mention this in the absence of the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke), who suggested yesterday that I ought to resign and sit as an independent member. A democratic government and our democratic way of life surely rest on and are enhanced by the freedom of elected members of Legislatures and other assemblies to speak, to express a point of view, on behalf of conscience and principle.

Liberalism allows for that. I suspect that many would argue that conservatism and democratic socialism allow for that. That is yet another sense in which freedom is important to keep very much in the forefront of one's vision in the consideration of this kind of legislation and of the amendments I put forward. In that sense, the precedent is perhaps an important one.

I want to comment very briefly on the observations yesterday of the member for Windsor-Riverside, who proposed that I ought to resign from my party, sit as an independent member and look more carefully at who my allies are. Last fall a number of members of his party were suggesting to me, in good-natured camaraderie, I suspect, that I ought to join them. That was after a particular committee I was sitting on had discussed some matters and I had made some observations that seemed to be to the pleasure of his colleagues. I noticed that those kinds of invitations stopped in January. I was not very sure why, but I find it curious that the member for Windsor-Riverside should make such a proposition to me now. It is not warranted at all.

As to his proposal that I should look at who my allies are, I have given that some thought as well. I would much prefer to see these amendments gathering some support from within my own party. It does not entirely come as a surprise to me that this has not quite occurred. I can, none the less, wish it were so.

Any politician who does not get support where he wants it looks elsewhere. I have done that too



and I do not find very much to be disappointed in. While they might or might not wish to be called my allies, members of a party that won rather a large number of seats in this Legislature a year or so ago and has had some experience in government and knows something of the compromises and flexibility that are required, I am happy to see, have given some support to the amendments I put forward. I am not at all upset in having had an opportunity to think a little further on this question of identifying the nature and quality of my so-called allies in the matter of these amendments I have put forward.

The member for Windsor-Riverside, who proposed that I am speaking for the Ontario Medical Association, is quite factually wrong and must stand corrected. I detailed that yesterday. I can only conclude that the honourable member has not himself talked to the OMA and is not at all familiar with the position it has put forward. He ought to become more familiar with it. Physicians have some experience and expertise and something to say in these matters; they even have a little bit of wisdom. It would behoove the honourable member to be a little more familiar with their point of view.

To wrap up my comments, it seems to me that it is one thing to use the power of the state to guarantee services to needy citizens who may otherwise be deprived or disadvantaged in obtaining those services. It is rather another matter, it seems to me, to say that the needy and the disadvantaged ought to dictate the pattern of delivery of services to everyone else in the province and then ask government to use the power of the state to make that stick.

Physicians are mobilizing as never before, I suspect—certainly as I have never seen them or known them to do before. Physicians in Ontario are carrying placards, distributing leaflets and pumping hands at subway stations, bus stops, malls and elsewhere. That would have been unthinkable only a decade or less ago.

The politicization of physicians is barely off the ground. Doctors do not like that. They do not wish to be caught up in a political process. They wish to be free to serve their patients and to practise their art. Patients do not like that. They do not want their physicians to be political creatures, I do not believe. Of course, patients are the same citizens and constituents who vote, and this sentiment that I attribute to patients and to physicians is one that wise members would keep in the forefront of their awareness.

3:50 p.m.

It will be a very painful process to pass this bill if it is passed in something resembling its present form. If that pain can be tolerated and if the bill should go forward in something resembling its present form, if all that is successful, the problems will then just begin.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I just bring the member back to his own amendment and ask that he stay a little closer to it rather than speak on the bill per se?

**Mr. Henderson:** I will be happy to do that. I was about to conclude. I put forward this amendment to section 2 in the belief that it would solve the problems of extra billing, which is my aim, and that it would preserve reasonable goodwill and harmony or allow for an opportunity to do that with my professional colleagues, upon whom we rely so much to make the system work. I therefore recommend this amendment to section 2 to the consideration of my colleagues in this House.

**Mr. Andrewes:** May I ask the member for Humber a question about his clause 2(2)(c)?

**Mr. Chairman:** Is that subsection 2 or subsection 1?

**Mr. Andrewes:** It is clause 2(2)(c), which reads, "the practitioner has been granted dispensation from the application of the subsection by the Minister of Health." What instances does the member see in which that exemption might be granted?

**Mr. Henderson:** First, by way of preamble, a few people have misunderstood clauses 2(2)(a), (b) and (c). My intent is that, except as prohibited in subsection 2(1), physicians and some others may charge up to their professional association rate provided that clause 2(2)(a) or (b) or (c) applies.

In clause 2(2)(c), I had in mind the very special situation of a physician who simply does not fit in very well to ordinary categories that might be considered for a group dispensation or group situation. I was thinking, for example, of my colleague, Dr. Ian Munro, who was doing such very specialized and pioneering work. In the event that he were to approach the minister and say, "I think my needs and my circumstances are special," the minister might want to have legislation that would allow him to give special consideration to that kind of situation.

Each of Dr. Munro's operations combines an incredible amount of teamwork from disciplines as diversified as social workers, psychologists, dentists, artists, sculptors, radiologists, surgeons and paediatricians. That kind of representation is



included in the team of people who work with Dr. Munro in preparing for what comes together in the form of an operation that might last only a few hours.

I do not know how one can set an across-the-board government tariff which would make any sense that would apply reasonably to somebody whose work is so unique. It simply does not make any sense to propose that an across-the-board tariff could be set up when each operation is in itself a brand-new work of art, and I am not exaggerating in using that kind of language.

I am sure that throughout the province there are other instances of physicians, surgeons and other practitioners who have involved themselves in practices that are highly specialized, highly unique, highly individualized and very difficult to categorize, who ought to have special consideration. I am only proposing by this clause 2(2)(c) that there be a mechanism whereby the minister may give special consideration to highly unusual circumstances that do not fit in anywhere else, circumstances that are very important to the health care system by virtue of the degree of specialization; by the opportunity, in effect, to remake a wrecked life by the potential for this kind of surgery, and by the fact that there may be only a few people in the world who are able and have had the training and experience to offer this kind of service.

We do not want to lose these people. We want to have the flexibility in our legislation to allow very exceptional practitioners to receive special consideration.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I thank the member for Humber for that explanation. He has put this responsibility on to the minister. What criteria did the member have in mind for making that kind of dispensation? Does he have in mind a panel or advisory group to the minister? How would the minister undertake to provide this dispensation? What guidelines does the member offer?

**Mr. Henderson:** I must confess to the member for Lincoln that I have not thought through the details of that as well as I might have. If he has any ideas, I welcome them.

It had occurred to me that the district health council might be a body that could be brought into some mechanism to ensure that these kinds of requests would receive fair consideration. The district health council would presumably have a wish to try to attract and retain exceptional practitioners in the district or region they represent. I am sure there are disadvantages to that suggestion as well.

I presume that if through some convergence of events that I cannot readily foresee at the moment this clause ever became law, the minister would put his mind to it in a very thorough way and it would be possible to devise some mechanism, perhaps some committee to advise the minister on it. It would be important that there be some expert input into that committee, perhaps from the Ontario Medical Association. There are some evaluations that must have expert input. Physicians can perhaps evaluate the exceptionality of a practitioner's situation in ways that others cannot.

I must acknowledge that I do not have a very full answer to the member on that point. It is something that merits further thought and he might well have some excellent ideas he will want to put forward.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I want to go back to the member for Humber for a moment. One of the proposals the minister put on the table for the OMA was what is loosely termed an "excellence fund," which we assume would provide some additional incentive for those who in some way feel their services warrant a fee over and above the Ontario health insurance plan fee. The minister is not nodding; perhaps he is not listening. I assume that was his purpose in putting the incentive fund on the table. Am I correct?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I am sorry.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I was asking the member for Humber, in the light of his amendment, a series of questions to try to clarify how his proposed dispensation from the effects of the amendments he has made might be carried out and how the minister, to whom he gives the responsibility to provide this dispensation, might arrive at some criteria for granting the dispensation.

I am looking for some advice on the whole question of the excellence fund that was proposed, whether the excellence fund was directed at those physicians who feel their qualifications and unique skills are such as to warrant payment over and above the Ontario health insurance plan fee. Was that the concept embodied in the excellence fund?

**4 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** That has nothing to do with this amendment whatsoever; it is not part of this amendment. I can tell the member we were hoping the excellence fund would be worked on between the government and the Ontario Medical Association, but it has nothing to do with this amendment whatsoever. There is nothing in this



amendment to contemplate those other portions of the reasonable program we put forward for discussion.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I take exception to these comments. The amendment put by the member for Humber says:

“(2) Except as prohibited in subsection (1), a physician or an optometrist who does not submit accounts directly to the plan...or a dentist may charge an amount not to exceed the amount provided for in his or her professional association’s schedule of fees provided that...(c) the practitioner has been granted dispensation from the application....”

The member for Humber chose the model of Dr. Ian Munro, who, by his definition and description, indicated that each time physicians of that skill went to work, they performed something unique; their procedure was somewhat specific to the individual and the circumstances that confronted them.

I am asking only whether that is in the same context as the question of the excellence fund. Is it the Ian Munros of this world to whom the minister is directing the concept of the excellence fund?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** That has nothing to do with this amendment. The excellence fund is not included in this. He knows that, and I know that, and there is no merit in proceeding in discussion of that fund or that concept at this point. This thing does not talk about that. We are getting far removed from designations that are thought of in the context of another person’s amendments. His amendments are not my amendments. I am not supporting those amendments, and I am not able to provide the member with any background with respect to what his amendments are about.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I am a little puzzled by the fact that we are in committee, where we are supposed to provide each other with some clarification of issues and have a reasonable discussion. Nevertheless, I will try to pursue this issue with the member for Humber and ask him whether the concept of the excellence fund, as he understands it, is in keeping with the thrust of his amendment.

**Mr. Henderson:** If the member is asking me whether the excellence fund is the same kind of concept as I have proposed in clause 2(2)(c), I suppose there is a commonality—and I do not speak with any authority on this—in the sense that one of the functions the excellence fund was intended to serve was to find some mechanism for acknowledging the exceptionality of certain

individuals. That is what I had in mind in clause 2(2)(c).

I suppose the differences between the excellence fund concept, as I understand it—and my understanding of it may be very imperfect—and clause 2(2)(c) would have more to do with the implementation and perhaps with the social psychology and group dynamics of how it would all work out and with anything that is very easy to discuss in the context of framing things legislatively.

Once something as broad as an excellence fund is set up, it brings into play a lot of factors of group dynamics, group rivalry, group envy and other tricky bits of human vocational psychology that carry their own force and have their own consequences, the nature of which is hard to foresee. The very fact of not foreseeing something in clinical practice is very important. People live and die by the rightness or wrongness of the clinical acts and sometimes the organizational, administrative and legislative acts that underlie those clinical acts.

I thought of clause (c) because it seemed to me a simpler way of acknowledging the exceptionality of certain practitioners, a much less complicated way that need not impinge on bureaucracy and need not call into play a proliferation of institutions or parts of institutions. I like clause (c) because of its simplicity and because it gives the minister a mechanism for devising something that might work relatively well and relatively simply.

**Miss Stephenson:** I want to ask the member for Humber whether the mechanism might be similar to that in place now for the establishment of the fee for procedures that are listed as benefits under OHIP but have no fee attached to them. A significant number are in the OHIP booklet which is distributed to physicians in this province. They are primarily in the area of cosmetic surgery, but much of that is related to reconstructive surgery. When the reconstruction has a physiological and psychological basis, the procedures are benefits under the plan. The determination is made by the physician-bureaucrats, so to speak, of the insurance program, who determine whether they will be insured benefits.

The difficulty in that circumstance, and it is a circumstance that has to be met with some regularity these days, is that there is not a standard OHIP fee against which can be measured, for example, the kind of criterion the member has placed in clause (b), where he has suggested that if 50 per cent of the billings of an individual have been at the level of the OHIP



benefit within the previous three months, that exception could be in place. In some circumstances, and they may be a narrow range of circumstances, it might not be possible to do that measurement.

I am concerned that situation should be addressed somewhere as well, but I am not sure it needs to be in the legislation. I wonder whether the member had that in mind when he was looking at the specific dispensation provided by the minister on a basis that I would suggest would be a consultative basis involving not only the district health council—which is a good idea because it represents the community, the providers and the recipients of health care—but also the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario or the College of Optometrists of Ontario and the professional association in addition. In both of those circumstances, the college is the body that determines whether an individual has a specialty worth noting in terms of the seniority of the profession.

**4:10 p.m.**

**Mr. Henderson:** I want to thank the member for York Mills for those comments and for raising the helpful point of comparison with the determination of the fee in an instance of services where it is not spelled out.

If, by some arrangement of circumstances, clause (c) were ever to come into effect, I would like to imagine there would be something allowing for some sort of community input so the decision would not simply be made by physician-bureaucrats, as the member says, but there would be some way for a community to say to the minister, "We want this kind of practitioner" or "We want this practitioner." The district health council might be one such mechanism.

There might be other mechanisms. The member for York Mills might have some ideas about that. There ought to be something that would give the community a little more say in it than simply speaking to the physician-bureaucrat—I realize that would not be the nomenclature—or to the person in the Ministry of Health. I would like to see something a little more democratic by way of a decision-making structure.

If I understand the member's final point, clause (c) need not be invoked if the exceptionality of a particular practitioner could be accommodated under clause (a) or clause (b).

Let us stay with the example of Dr. Ian Munro. If he were working in a hospital or clinic where most of the people were already opted in, there would not be a problem. If that were not the case

and he chose to do better than half his work on an opted-in basis for three months, it would not be a problem. However, I would like to see some kind of mechanism whereby if neither clause (a) nor clause (b) applied, there would still be at least a mechanism whereby the minister could make a dispensation upon suitable input from the community. That is what I had in mind in clause (c).

**Miss Stephenson:** The implication of such an act on behalf of the minister would be a useful one right now. I am fairly sure the member for Humber is aware that the in vitro fertilization clinic established through the University of Toronto department of obstetrics and gynaecology is one of the most successful in the world in terms of its positive rate of success, which is something of the order of 36 per cent. No other clinic, even the original one in Britain, has achieved that.

This is a procedure that is not listed anywhere in any of the procedural information provisions, and it is a matter of some concern to those who have been involved. As a result of that involvement, a number of very bright young graduates have proceeded to very intensive post-graduate training in order to seriously consider returning to Canada. It is my understanding that because of the provisions of Bill 94 as it is currently written, three of them have made the determination not to return to Canada. They were to be the next generation who would carry on this very important work which provides an obstetrical success rate in many instances where all other procedural activities fail. We will be bereft.

If the member's mechanism were in place, the unique service to be provided by these young specialists would be recognized through some procedure that would require the minister's final stamp of approval and would permit that procedure to be carried out with reasonable recompense since it is so rare, so unique and so highly specialized.

It is not simply in the reconstructive surgery area, the cosmetic surgery area or the artistic provisions in which some surgeons must become very deeply involved; it is in other vital circumstances as well that this provision would be useful.

The suggestions the member has made in terms of the requirements even to be considered for an exemption from the rule of billing at the level of the OHIP benefit are well balanced. They are pretty stringent in some circumstances. There are instances in which a very experienced family physician who happened to be the only physician in a community, by the member's requirements,



would never be permitted to bill beyond the level of OHIP benefits because within that community he or she was the only physician available. That would provide a pretty stringent requirement.

None the less, this is a reasonable direction to pursue to attempt to find a way to ensure that the primary concern of the professions is addressed appropriately. That primary concern is the traditional freedom to function as agents and on behalf of patients rather than as those employed by the government for the purposes of delivering services in health care. I cannot stress too vigorously my great and increasing understanding of that concern as the only item at issue in this debate as far as the professionals are concerned.

Yesterday, the member for Windsor-Riverside suggested very strongly that I was totally out of touch and knew nothing about what was going on in the delivery of health care. I tried to inform him that I have some mechanisms for keeping in touch. I also wish to inform him that after last night's meeting of district 11 of the Ontario Medical Association, I learned I am not only in touch but also may be a little too conciliatory—

**Mr. Breagh:** Who made that wild accusation?

**Miss Stephenson:** —in the directions I would pursue to try to resolve this issue compared to those actively practising, the highly specialized and family-physician members of district 11 who met last night to provide guidance to the executive of the OMA. Since they represent almost one third of all physicians in Ontario, it might be wise to be a little hesitant about pursuing a goal that appears to be the total subjugation of the profession.

As I said yesterday, I firmly believe the amendments suggested by the member for Humber go a very long way to solving that problem, to removing us from the toils of the impasse in which the ministry and the profession now are embroiled. As well, I firmly believe my request yesterday for a 24-hour period of serious consideration of these amendments was not only valid but also very reasonable. I hope 24 hours has provided some food for thought.

I do not expect the minister will have paid any attention to the amendments, but other colleagues of the member for Humber on that side of the House might have paid some attention to them and might have seriously considered their implications for the future quality of the health care delivery system in this province, because Bill 94, as currently written, ensures that this quality will decline.

The member for Humber has done a great service to his party by developing amendments that would go a long way in continuing to ensure that the high quality of service in Ontario is maintained rather than destroyed. I am pleased that clarification has been provided us regarding the mechanisms the member is suggesting in clause 2(2)(b) and clause 2(2)(c) of his amendment.

**4:20 p.m.**

**The Deputy Chairman:** Does the member for Humber have any comments?

**Mr. Henderson:** I have about one sentence. Notwithstanding the guffaw from out Oshawa way, I believe the member for York Mills is correct in identifying a stringency. I did think through all or almost all aspects of this dilemma as thoroughly as I was able, and I did try to put together something that would be rather stringent and would leave a lot of aces in the hands of the minister. It is stringent enough to have got me a little unhappy feedback from some of my colleagues; so it is seen by them as stringent. It does yet preserve professional freedom, and it does yet address the problem issues raised by extra billing.

I recommend that notion of stringency to my honourable friend the member for Windsor-Riverside, who feels I am echoing the views of the OMA. That is not the case, and it is not at all seen by them or by me as the case. These are stringent guidelines that none the less would work.

**Mr. Breagh:** I want to interject briefly. I have some concerns. We are into the second day of debate on this bill. As the member for York Mills spoke yesterday, it became clear to me that she intended to talk out the afternoon. She did, and that is fair game. She sought 24 hours to cool out, and she got that.

We are here this afternoon to process a piece of legislation. In virtually two days of legislative debate, we have not had the opportunity for one vote on one amendment. I appreciate that the member for Humber has successfully hijacked the minister's position in taking the bill through the Legislature. It is his right to do that, and he has exercised that right. It is rather unfortunate that we have had two days of debate without getting to the proposals from the minister.

The chair is in an awkward position. We are in committee, and traditionally, during committee work, we have allowed questions back and forth and there has been some laxity. I want to put it to you, sir, that people around the province have watched us dither and dather for two days about



this important piece of legislation. I ask the chair to make people abide by the rules, which I remind all members are that we are here to speak to the amendments, not to voice our opinions about meetings we went to last night, or what we would like to do or the wonderfulness of the world.

We are here to process a piece of legislation. People around Ontario are watching us on television and expecting us to do exactly that. I would like us to get around to that business. However much we might want to say on the bill, there are an important bill and now amendments before us, and I am anxious that we get to work and do our job.

**Miss Stephenson:** These amendments are very important.

**5:15 p.m.**

The committee divided on Mr. Henderson's amendment to section 2, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 38; nays 63.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. D. S. Cooke moves that section 2 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(2) A practitioner referred to in subsection 1 shall not accept payment in respect of an insured service rendered to an insured person until after the practitioner receives notice that the patient has been reimbursed by the plan unless the insured person consents to make the payment on an earlier date."

Order. Will those leaving the chamber please do so now and quietly. Otherwise, please be seated.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I have a subsection 2(3) I would like to read also. There are two amendments.

**Mr. Chairman:** I understand you perhaps want to have these considered together as a unit. Is there some reason that they must be? It is more confusing for the members.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** It does not matter. I can move them separately.

**Mr. Chairman:** Unless they have to go together, that would be simpler for the members.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** Very briefly, this matter was debated at length in the standing committee on social development. One of the concerns that was expressed by consumer groups and those people supporting Bill 94 was that doctors who can opt out under Bill 94 will be able to ask for that money, the payment for the insured service, right after the service has been provided, unless

my amendment is carried. In effect, even the OMA has agreed that if this amendment does not carry, we could have a bill that will result in decreased accessibility rather than the increase in accessibility which is the purpose of the bill.

The purpose of this amendment is simply to ensure that a person will not have to pay for the service until he or she has received his or her payment from OHIP. Under this amendment, the physician will be notified that payment has been received by the patient. This will guarantee that accessibility will be increased and the principle and idea behind Bill 94 will be implemented. I hope we can count on the support of the government on this important amendment.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I have a couple of points to make. First, we have not yet dealt in clause by clause with subsection 2(1) and we are amending the section to deal with a subsection 2 that refers to subsection 1. It is a matter of making sure we are progressing at the right stages.

**5:20 p.m.**

**Mr. Chairman:** Does the minister mean that section 2 becomes subsection 2(1)?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Yes. This amendment refers to subsection 2 and we cannot deal with that. There is a clause in there that is not being amended, as I understand it.

**Mr. Chairman:** That is correct.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** It appears in the bill, and I think we should probably deal with it first.

**Mr. Chairman:** However, we have several amendments. We have one from the member for Windsor-Riverside and we also have one from the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes). If we take the member for Lincoln first, that is an amendment which says, "delete the entire section 2," then sets out his set of amendments. Therefore, is it not in order for us to take the amendment of the member for Windsor-Riverside first. He is amending only and not deleting the entire section. Is that not correct?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I do not think so.

**Hon. Mr. Sweeney:** The member for Windsor-Riverside is adding on.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** If the member for Windsor-Riverside would like to add on to the entire section and deal with the entire section at one time, I have no problem with that. He then has subsections 2 and 3 to add, as I understand his notice of amendment. I am not sure about any others that may serve as a part of it.

Mr. Chairman, if you want to deal with the entire section, I would have no problem in doing



that, but I want to understand what we are considering as these items are brought forward.

**Mr. Chairman:** We have not carried section 2 and we cannot carry section 2 at this point.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** In that case, if we are going to deal with the amendment that has been moved, I would like to rise at this time and indicate we will support this amendment as brought forward and look forward to having a vote on this important item.

**Mr. Andrewes:** At present, I have misplaced my copy of this amendment. Can the member for Windsor-Riverside give me another copy?

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I have only my one copy.

**Mr. Chairman:** Ah, the ever-present government whip.

**Mr. Gillies:** They call her "helpful Joan."

**Mr. Andrewes:** She has the handiest photocopier in the building.

It probably will not come as any surprise to the minister or the member for Windsor-Riverside that we will not support this amendment. The amendment binds the patient and physician to a contract on payment, which destroys the relationship between the patient and the doctor.

I also find somewhat offensive the other aspect of this amendment, which is that it assumes physicians are not reasonable, compassionate and understanding people. It assumes they will not develop a relationship with their patients as far as payment is concerned if payment is a problem. Therefore, we find the amendment offensive because it violates an oath sworn by physicians as members of a profession. It violates professional ethics in a doctor-patient relationship that we should be able to understand. We should not need to pass this kind of offensive legislation.

**Miss Stephenson:** I do not believe that I could express sufficiently strongly in words the total disgust with which I regard this kind of amendment suggested by the New Democratic Party and supported by the minister.

The minister, as the Minister of Health, has been dealing with the medical profession now for almost one year. He has learned, I believe, that the code of ethics of the medical profession is the most stringent, the most demanding and the most closely followed by any group in total percentage of ethical members.

I am absolutely astonished that the minister would stoop to suggest that he should legislate totally the doctor-patient relationship. It is not enough, apparently, that he is intruding and invading a territory in which he has no business.

He now is about to say that, as a result of this legislation, he is the only one who can decide when and if an account should be sent to a patient by an opted-out physician.

I reiterate that the member for Windsor-Riverside has no idea what he is talking about when he talks about the delivery of health care by physicians. He has no understanding of the relationship that occurs between a practising physician and his or her patients. He has absolutely no insight into the very reasonable plane that is established in 99 per cent of those relationships.

I believe very strongly that it is an absolute insult to the total medical profession to suggest that this kind of legislated act is necessary. The member for Windsor-Riverside suggested that there had been debate about this in committee. There was no debate. In committee we were never given an opportunity to debate anything because we spent all the time hearing delegations. I do not believe that is construed as debate within committee.

There was a statement made by representatives of the practising physicians that they understood there might be a hardship for some patients and that obviously they would not demand payment until the patient had been reimbursed, but that is an understanding which is part of their ethical background and procedure.

It is unfortunate this Legislature has sunk to the level of suggesting that no professional in this province should ever submit a bill of any kind until an insuring program has provided the client with some kind of reimbursement. As far as I know, we do not attempt to control any other group in society in that way. I find this absolutely unintelligible as far as human activity in a so-called democratic society is concerned.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I would like to take two minutes to respond to the member for York Mills, the first doctor in Ontario to opt out of the Ontario health insurance plan. During the hearings, this was identified as a problem. In fact, doctors came before the committee and gave the impression to the committee that they would exploit the fact that they could opt out and charge immediately after the service had been rendered as a method of protesting this bill.

The member should not tell me that this ethical myth that is so terrific and provides everybody in Ontario with equal accessibility will work. We know it has not worked. That is why we have Bill 94. We have to put in this protection because we have seen some of the tactics that have been used by some physicians in this province, such as the



physicians in Timmins. We know we have to put this in. It does not make me feel good to say that we have to regulate further, but the reality of the situation is that there are some irresponsible people who are not in touch with the needs of middle- and low-income people in this province. To protect the latter, we have to put this in and I am pleased that it is going to pass.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I am pleased to learn that the minister has decided to join the debate in spite of his hesitancy to do so earlier on. What leads the minister to believe there is a problem?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I am a member of the committee. If the member for Lincoln has concern about an amendment that has been moved, he should address it to the person who moved it. The situation was outlined by the member for Windsor-Riverside. I have nothing further in explanation of his amendment.

**Mr. Chairman:** The member can ask the mover of the amendment or can ask the minister's position on the bill. The minister is carrying the bill.

**5:30 p.m.**

**Mr. Andrewes:** That is what I assumed, Mr. Chairman. The minister is carrying the bill. The minister wanted this bill brought out of committee so we could have this discussion. We are trying to have a reasonable discussion; yet the minister sits there and will not respond to my questions. Are we going to protract this debate simply on that ground alone?

**Mr. Chairman:** In fairness to the minister, the question was not as clear as it might have been. Could you rephrase the question?

**Mr. Andrewes:** The minister has indicated that the government would support this amendment. What leads the minister to believe the amendment is necessary?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** It has come to our attention, in questions in the House and in other places, that problems have existed, that there are difficulties. I have dealt with some as a constituency representative in other times as well. It seems to me that the amendment is placed, in a sense, to make sure the bill is much more workable and does provide protection for patients. That is the essence of the need for the legislation. I have nothing further to say, unless the member would like individual circumstances where there have been problems. Those could be set out, if the member wishes.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Please understand that I am not trying to be unreasonable, but what the minister is endorsing here is legislation that

draws into question the efficacy of a medical practitioner. He and the member for Windsor-Riverside are proposing an amendment that would legislate professional conduct. I ask the minister to give us some compelling and convincing reasons other than some constituency visits he has had. I do not know how many members have had those kinds of constituency visits. I have not had any. Perhaps my evidence might stack up against the minister's, but I would like to see his evidence.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Problems were outlined during the committee deliberations, and there was a series of extensive presentations. There were suggestions that people did feel real hardships in having to make payments. Sometimes the arrangements were not as easily made as at other times.

The situation was one where a person, having visited a specialist here in this city, having been referred down here by his general practitioner, not only came face to face with the fact that, being on welfare, he was unable to afford the extra charge, but was also requested to pay the charge up front, before the service was delivered. I have brought that anecdote out several times and have been told not to go back into those anecdotes, but those are the types of situations we are discussing. What we are doing with this amendment is creating a situation where the patient will know that there will not have to be an upfront payment, that he will have the time to pay when he is reimbursed.

I do not see a particular way around the difficulty the member has had where people have not gone to him. I do not know why they have not gone to him, but they have come to me on more than one occasion and I cannot do anything more than provide the member with those details. I do not know how else to do it. I cannot do it blow by blow, I cannot ask all the members of the Legislature to do it and I cannot ask people to go through the entire Hansard of all the deliberations; I do not think the member wants me to do that. But that is one of the reasons for us to support this.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I am not asking the minister to do that at all. All I am saying is that, ideally, if I went home on the weekend and a constituent or two or three or four come in with a similar problem, I would love to be able to say, "Yes, we will pass some legislation and solve your problem." The minister is assuming there is a problem because he heard some evidence adduced to him in the committee. He heard some evidence there. He heard some evidence from



members, I assume. He has heard some evidence offered to him individually as a constituency member of this Legislature, and he is now prepared to support, and enshrine in legislation now for all time, a rule on the basis of a very narrow bit of evidence, as far as I can understand. I am not convinced this is the right way for this Legislature to operate and I want to be convinced.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I might draw to the member's attention a parallel situation a few years ago when the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) was Minister of Health. He asked for an amendment to the Health Disciplines Act to force doctors to give advance notice if they were going to extra bill. This great profession that is so responsible had to be regulated by its government as well into being professional and responsible. It had to be forced to do that.

**Miss Stephenson:** In the instance that was outlined by the minister as the one he could recall, the question I would ask is whether—

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Come on. I indicated it was one I have used on several occasions. It is not the only one I can recall, and the honourable member knows that is what I said.

**Miss Stephenson:** No, I did not. I am sorry, I did not know that is what the minister said because that is not what I heard him say. He did say he had used it on several occasions.

I point out to the minister that if the individual physician made the request for payment before the delivery of service, it should have been reported immediately to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, because that is an unethical act on behalf of the physician and that is where it should be dealt with.

The code of ethics, which has been developed within this country and provides a very reasonable guideline—not reasonable for physicians, but a reasonable guideline for the protection of the public—ensures that this should not happen. If it does happen, we do not have to pass legislation. We simply refer it to the college of physicians and surgeons, where that individual will be dealt with. When this kind of activity is outlined already in the code, surely we do not need legislation.

The instance mentioned by the member for Windsor-Riverside is nothing that was ever outlined in the code. It was specifically related to a desire to ensure that all patients were informed that the amount that was going to be billed was greater than the level of the OHIP benefit in order that they would be prepared. That kind of

discussion is necessary, we believe, if that is going to be done.

The regulation that was added to the act was to ensure that this sort of activity would be done, but that is not within the code of ethics. The activity mentioned as an example by the minister is within the code of ethics and can be dealt with most effectively that way. I really have some concern that, on the basis of this kind of example, the minister would suggest this kind of legislation is necessary.

**Mr. Chairman:** Are there any other honourable members who wish to speak to this amendment? There is no response.

**Miss Stephenson:** I have one more comment. I expected that perhaps the minister might respond, but since he is not going to do so, I would simply like the minister to understand that what was perceived by the profession generally as a very significant insult in the totality of Bill 94 has now been effectively expanded very dramatically. The minister has just added yet another severe insult. If he really wants to have a totally demoralized, absolutely antagonistic medical profession delivering health care on behalf of the Minister of Health of Ontario as his employees, that is exactly what the minister is going to get if he adds this kind of insult to the legislation he is already perpetrating.

**Mr. Chairman:** Is there any further response or comment before I put the question?

**Miss Stephenson:** What are we going to do with the legal profession? That is what I want to know.

**6:19 p.m.**

The committee divided on Mr. D. S. Cooke's amendment to section 2, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 58; nays 37.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. D. S. Cooke moves that section 2 of the bill be further amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(3) A physician, optometrist or dentist referred to in subsection 1 who makes a charge for an insured service shall supply the insured person with a written statement of the charge in particulars sufficient to identify the nature of each service and the charge therefor."

Order. Will the people leaving the chamber please do so quietly or take their seats.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** This amendment will require that any physician, optometrist or dentist who has opted out under Bill 94 will have to file a statement with the patient. This will identify for the patient whether he is being extra billed. This



will help the enforcement mechanism that is suggested by the minister. It will allow for proper enforcement of the legislation and for consumer education.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** This amendment is slightly changed from the one we saw earlier. This includes only those people under the original section 2, who are opted-out physicians, optometrists or dentists. We have some concerns with respect to the administrative effectiveness of this amendment. In fact, it could cause some difficulties in providing us with some administrative means of ensuring that the information provided complied with detail sufficient to meet the guideline or intent of the section. Under the circumstances, therefore, we cannot support the amendment in its current form.

I should advise the members of the House that under the Health Insurance Act there is a requirement at this stage that a card be made available and filled in with the designation of the service provided and the charges for it. In some ways, this section, as suggested, would be in addition to something that is already available under the OHIP legislation.

**Mr. Andrewes:** With the confusion in the House, I have a little trouble hearing what is going on, but I sense that what the member for Windsor-Riverside is doing is to ask a practitioner to supply a patient, upon leaving the office, with an itemized account so that the patient actually knows whether the charges levied are in line with the OHIP fee schedule. Is that the gist of it?

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** That is right.

**Mr. Andrewes:** In all likelihood, we will not be supporting this amendment. I want to say to the minister that he may want to consider a broader amendment. He has indicated that this amendment is very specific. He may want to look at a broader issue.

**Miss Stephenson:** I have not seen this amendment.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I am sorry. Would the member like a copy?

**Mr. Chairman:** Carry on, please.

**Mr. Andrewes:** There is a fair bit of sympathy for an annual statement that would come to a patient.

**Mr. Breagh:** Now we know who hit the member in the eye.

**Mr. Andrewes:** That is only speculation.

There is a fair bit of sympathy for an annual statement that would come to a patient from OHIP to each subscriber to that health insurance plan, a broader statement that would include services rendered by a physician, services rendered by a dentist that are insurable under the plan and services rendered by anyone else whose services are covered as insurable, including optometrists, chiropractors, physiotherapists and other people who are covered under the health insurance plan.

I want the minister to know as well that we would encourage him to look at an amendment that would provide patients on an annual basis with some kind of reconciliation for services they receive in a hospital. It is important that the concerns of the member for Windsor-Riverside and his caucus be addressed. At the same time, it is important that the concerns of the population as a whole be addressed, that they know the services they have received have been thoughtfully accounted for and also that they have some sense of the health care system and of the cost that has been incurred to that system by the individuals who have received these services.

There is sympathy for this amendment in the Progressive Conservative caucus; the specific amendment itself we will not support.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Elston, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin):** As the Ontario Senior Achievement Awards will be held in the front lobby at 6:30 p.m., may I ask that all members refrain from using the great staircase at the adjournment of the House today.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

## ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
24	1082	2	43	as is prescribed by regulation, “more or accept payment for more than the amount payable under the plan for rendering an insured service to an insured person.”



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No. 26

# Hansard

## Official Report of Debates

### Legislative Assembly of Ontario



**Second Session, 33rd Parliament**  
Wednesday, June 4, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer  
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, June 4, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

**Mr. Hennessy:** I want to make a statement about the government's management of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. sale and the impact it is having on Thunder Bay and the Can-Car Rail plant.

At the beginning of March, we were told by the Premier's wonder boy, John Kruger, that the sale of UTDC to Lavalin was all wrapped up. The weeks have turned into months and there is still no sale. This dithering has had a bad effect on Can-Car Rail, and the employees are fed up. They have seen the manager of the plant let go, they have seen the superintendent of the plant let go and they have seen 126 employees let go the other day with the possibility of many more to come.

During the winter, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) was in Thunder Bay promising no jobs would be lost at Can-Car Rail. What good are his words now? The people at Thunder Bay feel betrayed by the bungling of this government. The workers at Can-Car Rail, one of the finest rail assembly plants in the world, feel they have been led down the garden path.

When will this government realize it cannot play with people's lives this way. Why can John Kruger and the Premier, who boasts of his business expertise, not get this deal closed? Why can the workers at Can-Car Rail not get back to work instead of living in fear and frustration? Why can the Premier and Kruger not get their act together over there? In a polite way, I ask the Premier to quit sitting on his laurels.

### PROVINCIAL PARKS

**Mr. Laughren:** I am very concerned about the parks policy of Ontario in 1986. I picked up a copy of Ontario Provincial Parks Guide for 1986. The booklet is supposed to tell people what is available and what activities go on in the various provincial parks, but it is either deliberately

misleading or it overlooks some facilities that are available.

While the booklet lists such things as swimming, comfort stations and boat rentals, it overlooks the possibility of mining, logging, hydro dams and hunting, which are also allowed in our provincial parks. Did the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) deliberately leave out the other activities that are available, or was it just an oversight? Would he care to make a statement on that?

What is particularly galling is at the same time the things that actually can go on in our parks are overlooked, the amount of the charge being levied against senior citizens has been significantly increased and the cost to these nonprofit organizations has also been increased. It is time the minister brought some order into parks policy in the province.

### STUDENT BAND

**Mr. McKessock:** A few weeks ago, I mentioned to the members that the John Diefenbaker Secondary School band from Hanover would be participating at Expo 86. Not only did the school's 49-member concert band bring home a silver medal from an eight-day trip to Expo, but it also brought raves from Vancouver's fair.

Brenda Porteous, a 17-year-old girl from the Hanover school, said the band gave a total of three concerts, one at the school where the musicians were billeted, one at the Washington pavilion bandstand at Expo and the other at Douglas College. She said she was most impressed by the Ontario Pavilion. "It gave the world a good image of Ontario and made me feel very patriotic," she said.

Band leader John Smith called the trip fantastic. He said, "I really felt it was an excellent experience for all of us." He was pleased to learn how the Hanover band compared with others across Canada. He felt the accomplishment was something of which the band and community could be proud. He said the students knew before the trip that they were representing the community and they handled the whole experience with a mature, co-operative and happy attitude.



The members might be interested to know that John Smith, the leader of the band, is the son of Gordon Smith, former MPP from Simcoe East.

#### GRIFFITH MINE

**Mr. Bernier:** As all members of this House know, the closure of the Griffith iron ore mine in Ear Falls created an economic dilemma to that community and to that general area.

As a result, a grant was provided to establish the Ear Falls-Red Lake Economic Assessment and Planning Committee, chaired by a former Speaker of this House, Jack Stokes. This committee was set up to recommend a plan of action to compensate for the closure of the mine and the loss of 300 jobs.

In spite of its efforts to enlist the aid of several ministries at the federal and provincial levels, absolutely nothing was done to assist in its endeavours and, in fact, no response was received from this government.

As a result of the lack of interest and concern, the committee has indicated that it sees no justification for the continuance and perpetuation of this frustrating and wasteful exercise. It sees no alternative but to discontinue its studies and has so advised the government as of June 3, 1986.

This government has now received the report from the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment, which produced 129 recommendations, and the final report of the Advisory Committee on Resource Dependent Communities in Northern Ontario, which produced 80 recommendations. In addition, the government has now received the final report of the Ear Falls-Red Lake Economic Assessment and Planning Committee, which has nine recommendations in it, and Jack Stokes's report on the Dash-8.

The four major reports all deal with northern Ontario's concerns, and to date no action has been taken on any one of them.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** All across Ontario, public health nurses are fighting for justice in this province. In the last year, there have been strikes or lockouts in Kingston, Windsor-Essex, Kent and the latest example in the Muskoka-Parry Sound area.

All the public health nurses in these areas are asking for is parity with hospital nurses. In the Muskoka case, they do not even have parity with nurses in nursing homes in the same area. The

nurses in this area are the second-lowest paid in all of Ontario.

Public health across this province has not been a priority with either this government or the previous government. In fact, the whole area of prevention has been downplayed by both the current government and the previous government. Public health has not been the focus of health policy in Ontario. Neglecting this aspect of health care has become a tradition. Tories have always done this and now the Liberals are doing it.

The government of this province has to look at the cost-sharing arrangements with the municipal governments, take public health out of the municipal property tax deal and make sure it is all funded by progressive taxes through the provincial government.

Second, the attitude towards other health care professionals in this province has to change. The fact that this government gave an increase a few weeks ago to the doctors that cost the taxpayers of this province \$65 million, while at the same time it will not even pay parity to public health nurses, shows the double standard of the Liberal government in Ontario.

#### LIQUOR STORE

**Mr. D. W. Smith:** I am pleased to announce today that we are going to hold the official opening of the new Liquor Control Board of Ontario store in the village of Courtright. I want to thank the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) for his help in getting this store there. The people of that community worked hard to maintain one store in the community. As everyone knows, in the small municipalities in all our rural communities, if one store is taken away, it is one less reason for people to come to that town or village. I thank the minister and his staff for all the help they have given to me and that community.

#### RECYCLING

**Mr. Andrewes:** Some time ago, on about May 1, Mr. Speaker, I raised with you the issue of the change in format in the east and west lobbies in that disposable cups are now available for members rather than recyclable china cups. You responded to me quite promptly, and I thank you. You said you had made this change because of your concern about rising costs.

The issue I raised with you was not based on the fact that I was concerned about the aesthetics of china versus plastic or styrofoam. It was a broader issue that evolved around a concern



about our wasteful society, our throw-away attitude and our lack of concern about reusing materials.

How can the government, through the Ministry of the Environment, impress upon us as citizens of this province the need to recycle and reuse materials and to reduce the amount of domestic waste when we are not setting that example here in our own institution?

2:12 p.m.

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

### AQUACULTURE

**Hon. Mr. Riddell:** I am pleased to inform the House of an exciting and very positive initiative that is being taken by my government in the area of aquaculture.

Ontario will establish a major new centre for aquaculture research, the first of its kind in Canada. The new Alma research station, located near Elora, northwest of Guelph, will allow us to expand greatly our aquaculture research programs.

Aquaculture research in Ontario is a co-operative effort between the Ministry of Natural Resources and my ministry. I look forward to working with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) and his staff and other agencies of the Ontario government in finding additional ways to encourage and enhance this industry.

The new centre will let our scientists carry out work that was not possible with the current limited facilities at the University of Guelph. Our existing research work has been conducted on a laboratory scale. Up to now, we have had no facilities to expand this to farm-scale demonstrations.

Realistically, the information from these laboratory-sized experiments must be tested under practical farm conditions. We have to be able to do this before we recommend procedures for commercial applications. That is the kind of thing our new station at Alma will do.

We will also use this new facility to expand our breeding, nutrition and pathology studies. We want to emphasize the experiments to breed trout better suited to Ontario conditions. We will now be able to do more with the early rearing and grow-out to market of fish, as well as research related to brood stocks and breeding techniques.

This research station means the start of a new era for aquaculture research in Ontario. I am confident it will mark the beginning of a bright new era for the industry. Aquaculture has the potential to increase fivefold over the next

decade. The timing for the expansion of the industry is right. Consumer tastes have changed—away from traditional foods and towards ones people see as being lighter, more nutritious and more digestible.

The fish farming business has already been booming in Ontario. Over the past decade, the output of the province's fish farms has increased by at least 10 times. The new aquaculture research station will allow us to carry out the research and development needed to help aquaculture meet its economic potential in Ontario.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I am pleased to say that while we are used to hearing the Minister of Agriculture and Food come up with fishy stories, not only in the Legislature but also all over the province, we are actually happy to hear his fish story today. It is safe to say the fish farm organization in Ontario has been working very hard over the past several years to get a greater percentage of the market for fish consumed in this province. They have organized themselves quite well.

As a matter of fact, John Holder, who used to be the manager of the Franklin fish farm in Mount Albert, was one of the pioneering people in this organization and worked very hard for it until about a year ago when he took a position in eastern Canada. I know the group will be happy to see the assistance from the province and I trust it will continue to develop in the way it has in the past and will continue to come up with imaginative ideas for producing fish at fish farms in the province.

### LIQUOR REGULATIONS

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I wish to announce today further initiatives to be taken by the government as part of our comprehensive and systematic review of Ontario liquor laws.

Over the past several months, a number of changes in liquor regulations have already taken place. The government has approved the licensing of brew pubs, allowed the operation of microbreweries and acted on such items as duty-free stores, kosher wine sales centres and greater in-house promotion at Liquor Control Board of Ontario outlets.

As well, extended hours of operation have taken place at Brewers' Retail and LCBO stores and, of course, we are proceeding with our policy on the sale of beer and wine in independent food stores.

None the less, I believe members are well aware that many aspects of liquor regulation in Ontario still require updating. Some regulations



under the Liquor Licence Act, such as the rule prohibiting the use of disposable cutlery, are often nonsensical, and restrictions, such as those on patio umbrella advertising, are simply archaic.

Therefore, as a further step, I am today announcing the establishment of an Ontario Advisory Committee on Liquor Regulation. This committee will be chaired by my parliamentary assistant the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer). Other members of the advisory committee will come from the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. The purpose of the advisory committee is to obtain public and industry input on current issues so that we may continue this government's responsible change in our liquor laws.

The committee will be assisted by staff from the ministry, the LLBO and the LCBO. The advisory committee will receive written submissions from the industry and public until July 31, 1986. Subsequently, the advisory committee will participate in a process of regional or local consultation, travelling throughout the province to approximately 20 centres and receiving reports and recommendations from these communities.

The advisory committee, upon completion of the public consultation stage of the review, will write and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I am tabling in the House today the full terms of reference of the advisory committee.

In setting this review in motion, I see it leading to both short-term corrective action and long-term achievement. In the area of administrative or housekeeping procedures, we will act expeditiously on such areas as safety standards regarding capacity; signage referring to the availability of liquor and whether an establishment can be called a saloon or a bar; design factors currently required in licensed establishments; containers in which spirits can be sold; and various technical regulations. These are the items, among others, that require immediate attention, but which, at the same time, can be handled through administrative action.

In addition, there are substantial areas of liquor regulation that could be regarded as broader and more contentious in nature. These include such items as liquor advertising; special occasion permits; the type and nature of licences and permits issued under the Liquor Licence Act; classes of premises to be licensed; the food and liquor ratio; the criteria employed in reviewing

licence applications, the days and hours of operation of licensed premises; and others.

It is in these areas we believe both the public and industry should be involved and consulted before legislative or regulatory improvement is implemented. This is where the Ontario Advisory Committee on Liquor Regulation will serve as the vehicle to ensure change is responsible and reflects current public attitudes and expectations.

The advisory committee will report its recommendations to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, to be followed by required legislative and/or regulatory action. In adopting this approach, we will be able to accomplish the following objectives: through administrative action, clear away rather quickly some of the current irritants and redundant regulations in the Liquor Licence Act; and through public and industry consultation, address in a timely, responsible and thoughtful fashion many areas that need early change and updating to make liquor laws more in tune with the Ontario of the 1980s and take us constructively into the next decade.

**Mr. Runciman:** I have a couple of comments on the statement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. My colleague from Ottawa described it as a Coney Island beer, all foam and no body. That is pretty accurate. It strikes us as being more jobs for more Liberals. I do not know whether the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) is going to have any involvement; we might see booze legalized for the lawns at Queen's Park.

I would like to make a few points. The former chairman of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, Willis Blair, tried for many months to meet with this minister to discuss regulatory change. Instead of listening, the minister turfed Mr. Blair out.

The brew pub initiative mentioned in his statement was undertaken by this member and approved by the previous government. The reference to regulatory changes that have already taken place is worthy of note, especially the very controversial change involving celebrity advertising of beer, a change that was brought in through the back door, minus the consultation the minister is suddenly embracing. He is talking about archaic laws and regulations that are currently in effect, such as disposable cutlery and so on, but he is not making those changes immediately. Instead, he is going through the back door on some very controversial areas such as celebrity advertising.



We also note his reference to beer and wine in independent grocery stores. This is the first formal indication we have received that chain stores will be prohibited from selling beer and wine under this proposed legislation. I am sure Steinberg's and other chains will be interested in hearing that.

In summary, we look forward to the committee's recommendations and we hope the minister's new-found interest in consultation re liquor laws will extend to the municipalities of this province, which he wishes to saddle with his beer and wine headache.

**Mr. Reville:** I want to make one brief comment in connection with the statement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. It is in respect of Chinese herbal remedies, a matter I have drawn to his attention in the past. It is very important that our Liquor Licence Act reflect cultural decision-making. Chinese herbal remedies, which do contain alcohol, have been used by that community for many centuries and we should not now be interfering with something that is safe and acceptable to that community. I hope the minister will move quickly on that part of the Liquor Licence Act.

**Mr. Swart:** I too want to refer to the statement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations on the Ontario Advisory Committee on Liquor Regulation. I want to say immediately that an examination of the policies in the terms of reference is desirable. Such things as the suitability of forms of advertising as well as advertising content, the suitability of maintaining the legal drinking age of 19 years, the days and hours of operation of licensed premises throughout the provinces and the policies on licensing and who will be licensed are very important matters and need to be examined in some depth.

However, the minister's proposal for the advisory committee with respect to the persons who are going to be dealing with these matters is little short of preposterous. Why would he not want an independent committee to be dealing with these matters? He already knows that the chairman, a member of his own caucus, is obviously biased towards greater accessibility to alcoholic beverages, simply as a member of his caucus, as the minister is. The only other people to be on this committee are to be members of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. How does he expect to get an independent report from that group?

Seriously, why does the minister not give consideration to having representatives from

consumer groups, law enforcement officers and the social work groups in this province on that advisory committee? In fact, perhaps it should be a parliamentary committee that looks into matters of this magnitude. In the report, the minister indicates he is going to proceed with the sale of beer and wine in grocery stores. Is that not a matter of the same magnitude as these other things, or does he not want to hear from the public on this?

The polls show the public is reversing its support of the proposal; perhaps the minister does not want to hear that. He knows very well that the public considers it a very silly move to give that local option to the municipalities to try to bail himself out of the responsibility. In this proposal, he is treating a matter of major concern to society in a frivolous and biased manner. It is a disgraceful way of dealing with it.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. That completes the time for responses.

#### SPECIAL WARRANTS

**Mr. Harris:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention a direct violation of standing order 56; it is the old standing order 51. On April 24, 1986, the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) rose in her place and said, "In accordance with section 51"—new section 56—"of the standing orders of the assembly, I am tabling the special warrants that were issued when the Legislature was not in session. Copies of these special warrants have been placed in the postal boxes of the members."

I would not accuse the minister of deliberately misleading the House simply because those copies have not been placed in the postal boxes of the members. However, as it states in standing order 56, "Management Board orders...and a summary of special warrants shall be tabled on the first sitting day following the issue of the warrants."

As a result of a telephone call to the Clerk's office this morning, we discovered these warrants have not yet been delivered to the Clerk's table, the Clerk's office or the members' boxes.

This is not only a violation of the standing orders but also another example of ministers making statements in this House on which they clearly do not follow through. It is an example of good public relations but lousy management ability. I would not suggest it is dishonesty, but it is bad management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to instruct the minister to comply with standing order 56 and, more



important, to rise in her place and apologize to this House for not fulfilling her commitment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the minister have any comment?

**Hon. Ms. Caplan:** No.

**Mr. Gillies:** No comment? Is that open government for you?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The matter has been drawn to the attention of the minister.

2:30 p.m.

#### TABLING OF INFORMATION

**Mr. Sterling:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Yesterday the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes) rose in his place to deliver a response to my question of May 26. Our House leader rose at that time to make the point that it was appropriate that the member who asked the question should be in the House when his question was being answered. You suggested there have been many occasions when ministers have had answers for someone who is not here.

I have reviewed the Clerk's precedents book and can find no such precedent. I have asked several of my colleagues, and they can recall no precedent. I note in the precedents book that a member may not be recognized if he is not in his place. I also note that a question may not be put to a minister if he is not in his place. I also note in the precedents book that if a member rises to ask a question and the minister is not in his place, the questioner's party does not lose its place in the rotation. All these precedents are in the spirit of the question period.

However, the precedents you referred to yesterday are not in that precedent book nor, with respect, sir, does your interpretation concur with the spirit of question period.

I respectfully suggest that allowing a minister to give a response to a member who is not in his place is not a precedent we should be setting in this House. I suggest that a minister should be able to rise in his place and respond to a member's question only when that member is present. To allow a response, as you did yesterday, denies the member the opportunity to ask a supplementary question to his answer. Failing that, the minister should at least be required to obtain the unanimous consent of the House before responding to a member who is not present.

I ask you to give serious consideration to the rights and privileges of the opposition in placing questions and the dangerous precedent you may be setting in this regard. I ask you in the future at

least to obtain the unanimous consent of the House before allowing a minister to respond to a member who is not present.

**Mr. McClellan:** Speaking to the point of order, I agree with the sentiments expressed by my friend the member for Carleton-Grenville. I am sure it would be possible to find precedents from the previous government in which ministers answered questions on the day following the day the question was asked in the absence of the questioner. I believe that at least violated the traditions of decency and courtesy within this House. While I think that is true, I believe most ministers in the past have tried to show the courtesy to members of the opposition, when they have to respond on a subsequent day, of waiting until the questioner is present in the House.

Even if we are not able to nail this down as firmly as my friend the member for Carleton-Grenville would like by way of precedent, I hope we can at least establish a new precedent based on courtesy and respect for members of the opposition that ministers will wait until the questioner is present before they rise to answer a previously asked question.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** In the absence of the government House leader, perhaps I can respond. I think the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) makes a very good point. It is not worthy of the House at this time to get into a procedural wrangle on this issue. I can assure the honourable members opposite that there have been many precedents from the previous government when answers were given on days when members were not there, but that is immaterial.

**Mr. Hennessy:** You are the government now.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** Those can be produced if members want to turn it into a legalistic kind of thing.

I can tell my friend the member for Bellwoods I think his approach is the right one. I will ask my colleagues to try to respond on the days the members opposite are here. One of our responsibilities obviously is to try to develop answers as quickly as possible. Sometimes people are away, and sometimes we never know who is here even by observing the benches opposite. However, we will attempt to do that to accommodate them.

The other solution is that if those who are gainfully employed in other places would come here every day, we would never have this kind of problem.

**Mr. O'Connor:** The Liberal members were disguised as empty chairs last Friday.



**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The member for Carleton-Grenville came forth with a point. The member for Bellwoods and the Premier made their comments on the same point.

Having reviewed the standing orders, I believe there is nothing in them that says the Speaker is responsible for responses other than when they are too long, and the orders say they then must be done during ministerial statements. However, because of the long and detailed comments of the member for Carleton-Grenville, I will certainly take a very close look at the matter.

**Mr. Grossman:** I remind the Premier that almost all our members were here last Friday to pay our respects to Bishop Tutu while his members were not. So much for attendance. For that matter, I was at the Tutu dinner while the Premier was at the Shaw Festival.

**Mr. Ferraro:** That is only because the member got free tickets.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Does the Leader of the Opposition have a question?

2:36 p.m.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

**Mr. Grossman:** I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. We have now received a copy of the statement of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. for the first quarter of 1986. It indicates an anticipated profit has now been turned into a loss for the first three months. I read from page 2 of the covering note to the financial statement, "In particular on the Vancouver project, BC Transit has indicated an unwillingness to pay any further invoices until the ownership of UTDC has been firmly decided."

Given this inability to collect that money from Vancouver because of the uncertainty of the ownership of the company, is the minister prepared to acknowledge that the uncertainty and the mismanagement of this deal over the past three months has cost the Ontario taxpayers a great deal of money?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** That is one editorial comment raised in that particular statement.

As the honourable member is aware, negotiations were going on as recently as today. We are very optimistic that we will be able to make an announcement in the near future. As a former Treasurer, the member knows that budgets and actuals do not always correspond in the reality and in the light of day of a quarterly statement.

The real losses attributed to UTDC are losses of expected revenues from certain sales by the company that have not come through within that time frame. I can refer specifically to Boston, Santa Clara and Detroit.

**Mr. Grossman:** My question to the minister was not in regard to why the \$3-million loss had occurred, but rather in regard to the uncertainty created by the inability to conclude the sale of UTDC after almost one full year.

I am informed that the reason BC Transit will not make any further payments is that it does not know who might be owning the company to back up the warranties. Therefore, to protect themselves, they are holding back money. Does the minister not agree this is a critical situation that is obviously costing UTDC money and harming its reputation?

2:40 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** I do not agree with the Leader of the Opposition that the reputation of UTDC is being harmed. In our discussions with Premier Bennett, we learned BC Transit was looking to expand the SkyTrain system and not to go the route the leader is suggesting.

**Mr. Grossman:** The evidence is right here. I am not fabricating it. This is not from a phone call from mysterious sources. It is in the UTDC's own financial statements that Vancouver is unwilling to make the payments because it is concerned about the future ownership of the company. That is an incontrovertible fact. It is reported by British Columbia, and it is confirmed and reported by UTDC. Therefore, I have to place my question to the minister again. Is he prepared to acknowledge today that uncertainty over ownership is costing UTDC money?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** There is an overall loss of interest payments that cannot be attributed specifically to any one given sale in the statement to which the member refers. It is a very minuscule amount of money in the overall statement of the operating company. Given the potential and the prospects that we are aware of and that are ongoing, I do not share the leader's view one bit.

**Mr. Grossman:** I have another question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Perhaps he can clarify for us how many of the bids that UTDC was considering making on international markets have had to be withdrawn or cannot be made because of the uncertainty over ownership?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** I am aware of only one, and it was not in any way considered to be a hard sale



or a bid. I believe it involved the city of Dallas, which was on a fishing expedition for a transit system.

**Mr. Grossman:** The minister will recall this party pointed out in the House several months ago that the Dallas deal was being threatened by the way the government was handling the UTDC ownership issue.

**Mr. Ferraro:** Oh yeah, public accounts—

**Mr. Grossman:** He has acknowledged we were right. He has just acknowledged the government's bungling has cost the taxpayers—  
Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Will the member for Wellington South (Mr. Ferraro) contain himself?

**Mr. Grossman:** Will the minister share with the House the number of jobs that might have been produced in Kingston and Thunder Bay had the Dallas bid gone in and been successful?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** I did not imply for a second that the Dallas situation had much to do with our actions; in fact, it was the Reagan administration's policy of not financially supporting out-of-country purchases of transit. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition knows that.

**Mr. Grossman:** We not only do not know that, we also categorically deny the accuracy of what the minister just said. We are informed that the Dallas deal is a nonstarter for UTDC because of the continued uncertainty about ownership.

My final supplementary is this. In February, the minister reported to this House, I am sure in good faith, that he expected the deal to be concluded in four weeks. It is now 12 weeks since he made that report to the House. Can the minister report to us today on the status of the negotiations and whether the negotiations have turned to a discussion of transfer of shares and paper instead of the \$30 million or \$40 million in cash that was originally talked about?

**Hon. Mr. Fulton:** The Leader of the Opposition is referring to the fact we announced that we had received and narrowed down the bidders and that the final selection of the winning bidder would be made in about four weeks. On March 7, we said we would get into the serious, detailed negotiations with that successful bidder, which we are doing and which was ongoing as recently as this week. As I said in my first answer, we anticipate a resolution to this matter in the near future.

#### FREE TRADE

**Mr. Rae:** I have a question for the Premier. Can the Premier can tell us whether he was

consulted by Mr. Wilson or somebody else in the federal government about the decision to impose retaliatory tariffs on the publishing industry, among others?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** No, I was not.

**Mr. Rae:** In the light of that admission by the Premier, which I think is an admission that Ontario is being entirely ignored in these matters and not being taken seriously, I wonder whether the Premier can explain to the House exactly what his strategy is. Is he in favour of reduced tariffs and nontariff barriers with the United States? If that is the position of the government of Ontario, why was the government not consulted and what is the position of the government with respect to the imposition of these tariffs?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** As the honourable member will be aware, we are not charged with the responsibility of creating tariffs or of responding in this particular little skirmish that has developed over the border.

The Canadian government was not aware the Americans were going to move on shakes and shingles. Then Mr. Wilson, in his wisdom and presumably with the support of the federal cabinet, picked an area in which he wanted to respond to make a point. Many people have questioned the wisdom of that; perhaps the member is one of them. That is fair enough, but it is not our responsibility. They do not ask us when they make these moves. I do not think they asked any other Premiers; if they did, I am not aware of it. They had to pick their options in making their points in a discussion with the US.

If the member is suggesting that Mr. Wilson or the Prime Minister should phone us before doing one of these things, that would be a major departure from the traditional way of conducting the relationship with the US.

**Mr. Rae:** Does the Premier not understand this kind of action by the federal government is going to cost jobs in Ontario? It is going to put lots of people out of work; I hope he understands that. Does he not understand the decision by the federal government to move on its own can only be seen as a precedent for the kind of action that it is going to take in all the free trade discussions?

Does the Premier not realize that he wrote himself out on Monday night, that he was written out when they announced the decision with respect to new tariffs and that he is becoming increasingly irrelevant to what is surely one of the most important questions about the Canadian economy and about Canada itself; that is, the question of free trade? He is writing himself out



of the history books and he is writing himself out of the question. He should be ashamed.

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I do not agree. If anyone has written himself out of the play, it is my friend opposite. I will respond because it is a serious question on which I fundamentally disagree with the member's interpretation. Presumably he would say that if there were a federal budget, we should be consulted ahead of time. There are lots of things the federal government does that have a profound impact on Ontario. After all, we are 40 per cent of the economy of this country. The member could make the same argument.

He is asking for a new method of federal-provincial co-operation in which we participate in the creation of tariff policy and other things. It would be nice if we were aware of it, and it would be nice if they considered our views now and in the future, not to mention the past. However, that is not the way the country works. Each level of government takes its responsibility.

I do not for a moment take from that, as my friend opposite does, that this implies anything in the so-called discussions. It was a tactical move. He can agree or disagree with it. It has some impact here, depending on how one analyses it, but probably not of significant consequence. It will drive up prices a bit in some areas. Whether it will work in cooling out this trade skirmish, I do not know. I hope it does, but it may not, and then we are on to the discussions.

However, if my friend opposite thinks we have written ourselves out of the discussions, I can assure him he is completely wrong, and I do not think anybody across the country would agree with him.

**Mr. Rae:** Surely the Premier is admitting he does not know and saying he has not been consulted. The auto pact is a federal agreement; it is an agreement between the government of Canada and the government of the US. By analogy, is the Premier saying there is no way in which he can affect the future of the auto pact in the discussions that will take place with the US? Is that what he is saying in effect when it comes to tens of thousands of jobs in this province?

**2:50 p.m.**

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** There is a very serious misunderstanding. Of course I am not saying that. I am saying that when the Canadian government moves unilaterally on the imposition of tariffs, that is its responsibility. When it moves on a bilateral agreement as per the auto pact or any comprehensive trade negotiation, we not only have a legal role but also a political role in the implementation of that; we have all agreed

the provinces will have a formal role. The analogy does not make any sense.

**Mr. Rae:** Is the Premier seriously arguing that the skirmish with respect to tariffs between Canada and the US has nothing to do with the negotiations that are under way between Canada and the US?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** I would seriously argue that it was a tactical decision made by the federal government, and I do not believe it was made in consultation with any other Premier. The federal government has the responsibility to do that, and in a sense it does not bear directly or legally on the discussions that are taking place—

**Mr. Wildman:** Legally?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** It does politically, but in any legal way, it does not. I do not know how one could draw the conclusion that it does.

**Mr. Rae:** If the Premier's views were not regarded as important enough to warrant even a phone call from his good friend the Prime Minister of Canada, from the Minister of Finance or from anybody else in Ottawa, including Simon Reisman, why does the Premier believe he will be taken seriously with regard to the secret report, which we understand was sent by the Treasury to the government of Canada? Why should those views be taken any more seriously since he has not been taken seriously this week?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** We are taken very seriously, and it is important that we are all taken seriously, particularly in the areas where we have authority and jurisdiction. The federal government understands we do, and it has made some moves to take that into account. If the honourable member is saying the federal government has to phone us every single time it takes an initiative with a foreign country, I have to tell him that is not the way the country works. I am sure he learned that when he studied political science.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Grossman:** My question is to the Premier. Apart from one meeting held by two of his ministers two and a half weeks ago, can the Premier tell us specifically what he has done to protect our industry from softwood lumber tariffs?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** As the honourable member knows, there have been a number of ongoing meetings between the federal officials and our group. They are aware of our opinion on the matter, and we hope there are absolutely no moves. We have put our support behind the



federal government and behind the ambassador who is making ministrations in Washington today. If the member is asking whether I have the power to prevent that from happening, the answer is that I do not, but the government has our support in fighting those moves.

**Mr. Grossman:** Consistent with the question from the leader of the third party, my question revolves around the degree to which the Premier is able or willing to stand up for the interest of Ontarians. Specifically, has he done any of the following: (1) Has he written the Prime Minister of Canada with regard to our softwood industry; (2) Did he raise it on Monday night with the Prime Minister; (3) Has he made any representations directly or indirectly to Washington? Has he done any of those three things?

**Hon. Mr. Peterson:** The answer to the three-choice question is that we have done B.

#### HAZARDOUS SPILL

**Mrs. Grier:** I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. In addressing an audience in Guelph on Sunday, the Minister of the Environment said: "Unlike the previous government ...we place a premium on promptly and fully informing the public of all our environmental findings and problems. Our priority is timely, reliable public disclosure—whether the news is good or bad."

Yesterday, in response to a question from me, the minister assured the House that officials in Port Huron, Michigan, had been informed of a very major emission from Dow Chemical. Given that it took two days after the spill for the officials in Michigan to be informed, is that the minister's definition of prompt and reliable public disclosure?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** No, that is not my definition of prompt and reliable disclosure. As I have indicated in the House to the member, while the officials in Port Huron were notified, there was not timely notification. It seems to me that in the case of both water and air emissions, it is important that the Ministry of the Environment report at the very earliest opportunity and almost regardless of the so-called seriousness of the spill. I have given that indication to my ministry.

**Mrs. Grier:** The minister has given that indication to this House on innumerable occasions. He gave us that indication after the Chipman emissions in Hamilton. We are now talking about a very serious spill of four tons of vinyl chloride gas at a level of nine parts per million, barely below safe occupational hazards, and nobody was told for two days.

Can the minister give us any assurance that his sincerity and good intentions are being translated to the lower levels of his ministry and that there is a change from what we experienced a year ago?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Yes, I can give the member that assurance. As I indicated to her yesterday, the information was provided, and it was not timely from my point of view. Those who are responsible at the front-line level know the Minister of the Environment wishes to have this information provided not only to our local people or for interministerial communication but also to those in adjacent jurisdictions. I have certainly given that indication.

I think the member knows as well that I am not here to defend what I consider to be a less than adequate response. In this case, based upon the investigation I have done, it is my view that there was not an adequate response, that their interpretation of the seriousness of the spill was different upon reflection and study from what it would have been at that time. I assure the member I have given orders that it should not happen again.

#### WATER QUALITY

**Ms. Fish:** My question is to the Minister of the Environment. In commenting upon the problems of chemical contaminants in drinking water, a representative of his ministry was quoted this morning as saying: "The more they talk"—that is, the environmental groups—"the more you realize they don't know what they're talking about. What we have is a nonproblem." Does the minister stand behind his official's comments?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I recall being at a combined Rotary Club-chamber of commerce meeting in the city of St. Catharines.

**Mr. Brandt:** Here it comes.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I am going to be kind. I am not unfair; the member knows that. He is a friend of mine, and I want him to remain so.

I remember that the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), who at that time was the Minister of the Environment, indicated very clearly that our water was second to none in the world. Many people in Ontario are proud of our record in dealing with environmental problems when compared to those of other jurisdictions, and the member drinks the water to indicate that.

In response to the member's specific question as to whether I as the Minister of the Environment believe environmental groups do not make a significant contribution to the debate over the quality of drinking water in any jurisdiction, the answer is no. If the member looks at the record,



she will find that I value the input and contentions of environmental groups.

This was a long interview. I was not at the interview, so I cannot attest to what was or was not stated. However, if the member is asking my opinion, I think environmental groups have a significant role to play, and we should always be working towards better drinking water regardless of how it might compare with water in other parts of the world.

**Ms. Fish:** I take from the minister's answer to my question as to whether he stands behind his official's comment, that he does not. I trust we can look forward to an official apology to the environmental groups.

His official said a most disturbing thing, a most odd thing, namely, that there is a nonproblem with drinking water. In January, when for the first time the minister found dioxin in treated drinking water in this province, he indicated it was frightening, and he called for a wholesale improvement in the treatment of water in the Great Lakes. I agree it is frightening and there should be an improvement. Can the minister tell us what specific steps he has taken to improve the drinking water along the Great Lakes?

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I am glad to see that, now the member is on that side of the House, she finally considers it to be a frightening problem, because for a number of years she obviously did not.

**Mr. Gillies:** It is the official who said it was not a problem.

Interjections.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** As the member's leader once said, "You are a great pitcher and a poor catcher."

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Once again, interjections are out of order. Please disregard them.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** To continue with my response to the member for St. George (Ms. Fish), I want to indicate as well that while there are occasions when I may not entirely agree with what my officials say, I am not here to muzzle my scientists in what they can or cannot say. But I will indicate from time to time, as I do in this House, when I am not in agreement with a specific statement.

3 p.m.

As to the work that is being done on the improvement in water quality, I know the member will support the position I have taken in our negotiations with the Americans over the situation that exists in the Niagara River. There must be a specific abatement program with a

schedule for the reduction of contaminants; there must be a serious effort at excavation rather than a simple minor reference to it; and there must be very extensive monitoring.

## INSURANCE RATES

**Mr. Swart:** I will put a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and bring to his attention the case of Delbert and Marion Seabrook of Del Mar drive-in and campground in Iron Bridge, Ontario. They have been unable since the season started on May 1 to open their dirt go-kart track because they cannot get liability insurance for their customers, even though they have been directly and indirectly in touch with Grant Swanson of the ministry on several occasions during the last month.

How does this square with the minister's statement to this House three months ago in which he said: "There is insurance available for every risk. We are finding insurance for anyone who requires it."

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I thank the member for the question and I stand by that statement. To date, that is the first one. I would be delighted to have the member send me the details. There are dirt tracks around Ontario and they are getting insurance. Our market assist program is working. If the member will send that information to me, I will be delighted to follow up on it.

**Mr. Swart:** The asphalt tracks are getting insurance; the dirt tracks are not, and there are a number of them.

Does the minister not think it is a bit bizarre that this track was built totally with public funds loaned under the Northern Ontario Development Corp. just a year and a half ago and now, through the inadequacy of his ministry's policies, it cannot get any revenue to pay off the loan? Does the minister propose that the loan be written off or that it operate without insurance? Or maybe they should move to Manitoba, where such insurance is available under the public insurance corporation.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I stand by my previous answer. If the member will send me the details, I will make sure my people look at it. I cannot guarantee the price, but we can get them insurance.

## WASTE DISPOSAL

**Mr. Stevenson:** I am sending the Minister of the Environment a bag of industrial waste. I would like to know why he is making it so difficult to dispose of waste onions in Ontario.



**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** I was not aware I was making it so difficult to dispose of waste onions in Ontario. I will probably find out more when the member comes up with his supplementary. Perhaps he can tell me how.

**Mr. Stevenson:** I will not take the valuable time of question period to explain it to the minister. I ask him whether it is his intention to force the waste onions from the packing plants back to the farmers who grow them, so that they will have to resort to greatly increased chemical usage to control insects on their vegetable farms.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** This is the first time this problem has been directly brought to my attention. As the member knows, I always try to assist him in finding solutions. I will be happy to try to assist him in finding a solution to this. Do I get to keep this?

**Mr. Stevenson:** Yes.

**Hon. Mr. Bradley:** Thank you.

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr. Martel:** I have a question for the minister responsible for the swamp, the Minister of Labour. On April 1, 1986, an employee of Johnson Matthey Ltd. of Brampton and a member of the steelworkers union was seriously injured when material he was preparing for melting exploded in his hand. Among the injuries were the severing of his left thumb, multiple injuries to his right hand and his eyes and severe burning to his face and his upper body. These workers had not been advised they were working with a substance called gold fulminate, which is explosive when dry. They had been told they were working with gold cyanide.

Since the company was advised it violated the Occupational Health and Safety Act under section 145 and clause 14(2)(a), can the minister tell me why charges have not been laid to this time, or whether he ever intends to lay charges?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I did not catch the name of the company, but I gather from what the honourable member said, if I have the date right, the incident occurred on April 1, 1986, about nine weeks ago. I am sure it took a period of time for the investigation to be completed. Since the completion of the investigation and a report from the inspector involved, including any recommendations he may have with respect to prosecution, those matters are being reviewed.

The members knows the prosecution policy. There are a number of steps in the review of prosecutions. The member will learn if an information is laid, as will the union involved in

the normal way, but I do not view a little over two months to be an extraordinarily long period of time. There is a small backlog because of the quite substantial number of prosecution requests that are now coming forward from the various branches of the ministry.

**Mr. Martel:** There is a double standard in that workers are charged on the spot for not wearing a helmet and for not wearing safety glasses or safety boots. Can the minister tell me why this double standard applies? In this case, will he also tell me why the inspector wrote only a little bit of advice saying the act had been violated?

If we were to violate the Highway Traffic Act in this province with the impunity with which this act is violated, we would have no control on the highways. That is what is going on in the work places in Ontario; there is absolutely no control.

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** Obviously, I am going to take a look at the individual circumstance. I know my friend will be interested to know, taking all three branches of the ministry, for example, in 1984-85 from May 1 until April 30, there were 268 recommendations for prosecution. One year later, the numbers increased to 417. Most significant, in the first five months as we began to gear up under the new policies of this government, the number of orders, on a year-to-year comparison, went from 86 under the former government and its policies to 208 recommendations for prosecution. There were 71 in the month of April alone.

#### DRUG BENEFIT FORMULARY

**Mr. Leluk:** My question is to the Minister of Health, whose ministry has not issued a new Drug Benefit Formulary since January 1985. The minister should be aware of the case of a consumer in Chatham, a cystic fibrosis sufferer, who has had great difficulty in getting a prescription filled for sodium chloride ampoules. That is because the pharmacy would be forced to dispense the prescription for a one-month supply at a loss of \$250, which is \$3,000 annually.

Does the minister intend to issue today a new formulary to update these drug prices, so this Chatham cystic fibrosis sufferer and others like him will be able to obtain their necessary medication and the local pharmacist will not have to suffer an annual loss of \$3,000?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I will be pleased to look into the situation. I would have preferred that the member brought this to my attention directly so we could have looked at it earlier. I have indicated to the member on an earlier occasion that we are looking into printing the new



formulary. The member knows that is the case. I have asked that the information be gathered to print the new formulary.

**3:10 p.m.**

**Mr. Leluk:** The Premier (Mr. Peterson) was sent a letter on March 12, 1986, citing this very specific case. It was sent to him by a pharmacist in the London, Ontario, area where he resides. I am surprised he has not discussed this matter with the minister, given its importance. It just shows how much the government cares about the health of the people of this province.

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary.

**Mr. Leluk:** Will the minister confirm that his officials are requesting new prices from manufacturers for a July 1 formulary and that the Ontario Pharmacists' Association has offered him assistance with both the verification and marketing data to aid him in the publication of the formulary while the legislation and regulations are pending?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** One of the people who acts as a lobbyist for the OPA has on occasion advised me that he is prepared to provide as much information as the OPA has. He says it does not have exhaustive information in this regard but has advised that it will be able to provide us with whatever information it has. I have thanked him for that assistance. We will take advantage of it.

Also, I have been phoned directly by pharmacists and I have accepted their advice with respect to certain products. They have advised me as well that there are still a number of products in which there is a spread in high-volume purchase areas. I can understand the difficulty with respect to what may be a single-source product, the low-volume drug the member brought to my attention.

The member is wrong when he says we are disregarding the health of the people of the province. When these people's problems are brought to my attention I act as quickly as I can. I will act on this one as quickly as I can as well.

With respect to the particular formulary question on which we are working, we are seeking and receiving the advice not only of the OPA but also of individual pharmacists who have brought their concerns to my attention.

#### RENT REVIEW

**Mr. Reville:** My question is for the Minister of Housing. This morning's Toronto Star says, "The Ontario government will introduce legislation tomorrow that drastically changes its rent review program, including allowing annual rent

increases of about six per cent instead of the present four per cent."

I suggest that in some cases for older buildings those guideline increases may be as high as 7.2 per cent and for newer ones as high as 10.2 per cent. Will the minister explain to the House how a rent increase guideline of 10.2 per cent is in the interest of tenants?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I will be reporting to the House tomorrow the rent review reform that was brought to me by the Rent Review Advisory Committee. I urge the member to wait until I present that, and he can make those observations.

**Mr. Reville:** While we are waiting for the legislation, perhaps the minister can design an answer to this question. Why is it in the interest of tenants that \$250 million will be taken out of their pockets and put into the pockets of the landlords of this province?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I am not aware of \$250 million being taken out of one pocket and put into another. When the report comes in tomorrow, the member can make his observations.

#### NATIVE JOBS

**Mr. Shymko:** What steps has the Minister of Energy taken or is he taking now, along with the absent minister responsible for native affairs, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), to ensure that the Indian and Metis residents of Armstrong, Ontario, will get their fair jobs at the proposed \$411-million Ontario Hydro project at Little Jackfish River? In particular, my concern is for the unemployed native youth. What has he done so far?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** When we consider that kind of undertaking, we can make those kinds of comments to Ontario Hydro, which has assured us it will hire all the native help it can.

Very recently, when the native peoples came down from Armstrong, this minister made it possible for them to work with the lumber companies in that area and have jobs provided for them through the help of the ministry. We are doing everything we can on behalf of the natives, whether it be to help harvest our timber, to build hydro projects or to fight fires. We are doing whatever we can to help the natives in northern Ontario and much more than was done by the previous government.

**Mr. Shymko:** Talk about a cop-out answer. Two weeks ago, the native representatives walked out of a meeting in Armstrong. Is the minister going to follow Manitoba Hydro's example of the Limestone project, which hired



many natives, or will he do the same as the Hydro-Québec project in Baie James, where not one native was hired? There are 2,300 person-years of employment created by this project.

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** It is obvious that a government that settled the English-Wabigoon system question, which had hung fire for all these many years, shows our interest in the native people of Ontario. We are moving forward on settling many of the old differences that existed before. We are doing everything we can to provide jobs for the native people in Ontario and will continue to do so.

#### PROTECTION OF PATIENTS

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I have a question for the Minister of Health. Is he aware of the latest death of a person in restraints, this one at Hôtel Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital in Windsor? This is the fourth one in the last couple of years. It occurred on May 23. Is the ministry considering adequate regulations to protect patients while they are in restraints, whether it be in nursing homes, hospitals, homes for the aged or whatever the institution?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I am not aware of that latest incident. I will look into that matter and get back to the member on it. It concerns me greatly that this has been the fourth in a series. I will check to see what has been the cause, not only of the latest but also each of the other three the honourable gentleman brings to my attention.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** The minister should be aware of them. Margaret Oakes choked herself while trying to get out of the restraints. Lau Szeto set herself on fire while trying to get out of restraints at Windsor Western Hospital. George Louis Sova, in a similar situation, set himself on fire while trying to burn off restraints.

Is it not time the ministry looked at the relevant issue, that of adequate staffing in our hospitals to take care of these people so that these types of devices, restraints and tying people in beds are not required?

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** The question of adequate staffing is one that we are always addressing and looking at in the review of what is happening. The operation of each individual hospital and the staffing levels are very much up to the administration and board people.

I can tell the honourable gentlemen that I will look into each of the situations he mentioned. I will report back to him on the findings and will indicate clearly what role the staffing level had to play in each death.

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr. Barlow:** I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is it the policy of the Ministry of Labour to lay charges under the Occupational Health and Safety Act without first questioning all the parties involved to see if the charges are warranted, such as was done in the case of J.K.M. Custom Fabricating of Cambridge?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** Yes, it is the policy of the Ministry of the Labour thoroughly to investigate an incident and to have the matter investigated with all the appropriate people. Then the report, as I said earlier in question period, goes through a number of steps before a decision is made on whether charges will be laid.

**Mr. Barlow:** I think the ministry assumed in this case that the company was guilty until it was able to prove its innocence in a very costly court appearance. Even though senior ministry officials stated that the charges would not have been laid if they had been aware of all the facts of the case, the ministry still refused to drop them.

**3:20 p.m.**

Will the minister assure the assembly that J.K.M. Custom Fabricating and its employees will be reimbursed for their financial losses as a result of the erroneous charges, which were dismissed by the court, and for the \$7,000 it cost the company in legal fees to defend itself. Will the minister issue a formal apology to this company for his ministry's lack of common sense?

**Hon. Mr. Wrye:** I am aware of the specific incident and, quite frankly, I am a little surprised to hear those kinds of comments. This was a very critical injury. The worker suffered a broken leg, five cracked or broken ribs and lost the use of his spleen and half of his pancreas. This was not some kind of a minor incident.

The matter was thoroughly investigated and it was determined that a charge was appropriate. As I understand it, the charge was heard in April of this year and the justice of the peace found that the ministry had proved a prima facie failure to comply with the appropriate section of the regulation but found that the employer had taken every reasonable precaution in the circumstances. That was the finding of the justice of the peace, but on the basis of the information the ministry had, it believed at the time that a prosecution was appropriate.

#### PROVINCIAL PARKS

**Mr. Laughren:** I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources, who, I know, is



wrestling with the problem of what activities to allow in our provincial parks.

Does the minister not think it is reasonable to forbid activities such as hunting, mining, the building of hydro dams and logging in our provincial parks unless the public hearing process indicates that is what people really want done in those parks?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I inherited the parks situation from the former government. I had been given information that those kinds of public hearings had taken place, particularly in Caribou, one of our parks in the far west bordering on a park of similar nature in Manitoba that, incidentally, has the uses described by the member.

Having taken that into account and looking at it from the ministerial standpoint, we as the Ministry of Natural Resources decided we would take lumbering out of the park use, which was done.

About 101 of those parks have been put under regulation and there are those that are not under regulation yet. I have taken time to pause to see whether there was information from the public sector among those who have that kind of an interest. There is somewhat of a disappointment that there had been a resolution reached at a public forum where everyone agreed. Each one made some concession to the other so that they could very properly have multiple uses in a park. It seems to me those very people now want us to re-examine it. We are going to do that, and I think that is fair.

We will take a good look at the whole circumstance and make a decision as to where we should go. It is in abeyance, and we are going to go from there. I just did not want to rubber-stamp a Tory undertaking.

**Mr. Laughren:** I commend the minister for not wanting to rubber-stamp anything the Tories have been doing for 42 years.

Does the minister not understand how reasonable it would be to have none of these activities going on unless the environmental hearing process indicated the public at large wanted those activities to go on in our parks? Is that not a reasonable compromise on the part of parks enthusiasts all across this province?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** The member makes uncommonly good sense. That is why I am pausing now, to see whether I can look into those matters. In keeping with the kind of dialogue we have with the third party, I agree to look into those things.

I suppose the big disappointment would be that there is an entirely different concept about the people in northern Ontario, who have a very difficult time right now as it relates to jobs in many of these areas. That is going to be one of our considerations while we look at the whole park issue. The member's recommendations will be taken into account.

#### EASTWAY FORD

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has a response to a question previously asked by the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman).

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** The member for Leeds yesterday asked me a question about a car dealership in St. Thomas known as Eastway Ford. I have looked into the matter and can advise him as follows: I understand Eastway Ford has been charged 18 times with operating on a Sunday in violation of the Retail Business Holidays Act and has also been charged with misleading advertising. A number of complaints have been received by the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes) and the registrar of motor vehicle dealers from other dealers in the area as well as from a United Auto Workers local about the unfair competitive advantage Eastway Ford is getting by breaking the law.

Under the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act, the registrar may revoke a registration if the past conduct of the dealer affords reasonable grounds for belief that he will not carry on business in accordance with the law. On May 8, the registrar of motor vehicles advised the Ontario Automobile Dealers Association that if it is proven to my satisfaction that any dealer is deliberately flouting the law, I will not hesitate to make a proposal to revoke the registration of the dealer.

I am frankly surprised by the member's question. He appears to be in support of Sunday openings in spite of the findings of his party's task force, which recommended against Sunday openings.

**Mr. Runciman:** I was not suggesting by my question that I support Sunday openings. Eastway Ford is no longer open on Sundays. It was open for 18 consecutive Sundays and it is not open on Sundays now. My concern and that of my party was 70 jobs in St. Thomas, the involvement of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his office, which was indicated by ministry staff, and the commitment of the minister's staff to pull this individual's licence.

I asked the minister then and I ask him now, does he feel that type of involvement by the Premier's office is appropriate?



**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I have been informed that the registrar sent the letter to the auto dealers' association on May 8. The first time the Premier heard about it from his constituents was May 10. There was no involvement by the Premier. It was an involvement by the registrar.

#### REMOVAL OF CARCASSES

**Mr. Sheppard:** I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Last week in my riding, a deer was struck and killed in front of the home of one of my constituents. This woman was informed by a conservation officer in the district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources that picking up dead animals was not necessarily the ministry's responsibility. Furthermore, as of July 1, the ministry's policy will change to place the responsibility for the removal of animals upon the land owner, who in turn will require a permit from the ministry to do so.

In the interest of public health and safety, does the minister not agree that the handling of dead wild animals is best left to trained ministry staff?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I had a report on that incident. We could not find the evidence when we went to pick up the animal. Therefore, I am not sure how to handle this situation.

**Mr. Sheppard:** This constituent was very distressed by the fact that it took 24 hours and several phone calls before someone would remove the dead animal. Does the minister not think we should have another conservation officer in our area?

**Hon. Mr. Kerrio:** I know I am not supposed to ask a question of the member, but I would like to know whether the person he would like hired is a friend of his.

#### LIQUOR WAREHOUSE

**Mr. Breagh:** I have a question for the minister responsible for the sale of booze. It concerns the world-class, high-technology, fully automated liquor warehouse in Whitby. Can the minister tell us why the thing does not work?

3:30 p.m.

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I question whether the member's facts are correct. Members will know there is an extremely expensive facility in Whitby that is used for the warehousing of alcoholic beverages. It was not built by this government. Having said that, I can say I am concerned about its cost. It seems to be working most times. The story I get from management is that because of the high technology and the time

it takes to train the employees, they are expecting far better results as they go along.

**Mr. Foulds:** How far do they drop the bottles?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) want to ask a question? Is there a supplementary?

**Mr. Breagh:** The minister is aware that this thing is costing \$200 million, four times the original estimate, and that it is two years behind schedule. Will he provide us with a report that will address the allegations that there are high numbers of health and safety violations in the plant, that there is an incredible amount of breakage of bottles and that they are mixing up orders for the stores a great deal? Will he table some information so we can judge whether perhaps in our lifetime this thing will begin to function properly?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I will be happy to look into that matter and get back to the member.

#### INSURANCE AGENTS

**Mr. Runciman:** I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. The minister no doubt is aware that more than 40 per cent of part-time insurance agents are women, yet his government plans to ban part-time agents. I understand it will be dealing with the regulation either this week or early next week. Can the minister let the House know his views on this very serious matter?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** I am sure the member is referring to A. L. Williams, a company in the United States that specializes in selling term insurance and recruiting part-timers. Very serious concerns have been expressed by both the superintendent of insurance and people in the insurance industry. I have asked for comments from the industry. We are looking at that situation and will be making a determination shortly.

**Mr. Runciman:** I am not referring specifically to A. L. Williams. The concern on this side of the House is about the female work force in this province. We feel the proposal before the government is discriminatory and anticompetitive and will only serve to worsen the job prospects for women. I ask the minister to take a very serious look at this question in the light of these implications for the female work force in this province and to set aside the A. L. Williams situation. Will he commit himself to do that?

**Hon. Mr. Kwinter:** In our review of the situation, we are not dealing with it as a male or female problem; we are dealing with it as a



part-time insurance sales force and with the problems and ramifications of that. We are looking at it, and I will get back to the member as soon as we make our determination.

#### ONTARIO HOUSING CORP.

**Mr. Philip:** The Minister of Housing will recall that four weeks ago I brought to his attention the fact that Ontario Housing Corp. refuses to give transfers to larger apartments to tenants who enlarge the size of their families by adopting a foster child, because it says foster children are not permanent. Will the minister inform the House what action he has taken in the past four weeks to change that ridiculous, stupid and discriminatory policy?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I have great respect for those who want to become foster parents. Having said that, the position of the Ontario Housing Corp. on people who have taken that step and who want to be in OHC housing is that the involvement of foster parents lasts a very short time. We would have to put them on a priority list and displace people, and it would be for a very short time. We do not regard placing those people as a priority.

**Mr. Philip:** Is the minister not aware that many people who are foster parents take one child after another of the same sex and that therefore it is not a temporary situation? In the case of the Anderson child that I brought to his attention, that boy had been living with the family for two years and had been sent there by the children's aid society.

Is the minister not aware that the number of foster homes in Metropolitan Toronto has declined to 441 in 1985 from 506 in 1981? Why is he taking actions through Ontario Housing to discourage Ontario Housing tenants from becoming foster parents when there is such a need to place foster children, particularly teen-aged children?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** The OHC feels the children's aid society feels the environment is appropriate when it makes a decision to accept them as foster parents. When a person asks afterwards for a permanent position, we do not have that kind of accommodation because of the demand we have for other people.

#### RENTAL ACCOMODATION

**Mr. Harris:** The Minister of Housing will know that in estimates I raised concerns about housing in North Bay and the Renterprise program. I have a headline from the North Bay Nugget, which reads, "City's Vacancy Rate

Lowest in Country"—not in the province, not in northern Ontario, but in Canada.

The minister refused to make any allocation for North Bay in the Renterprise program at that time. I asked whether, if another allocation became available, we could look at North Bay. He thought that was a very positive suggestion. Since only 60 of the 150 units allocated to Cambridge have been picked up, is the minister prepared to allocate those 90 units to North Bay?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** I am not prepared to allocate those 90 units that dropped off. I am prepared to allocate those that could not be taken up; and I will consider North Bay.

**Mr. Harris:** We had that answer last fall and when the minister came out with his assured housing policy. We still have not seen a unit built anywhere in the province. Here is a program which some people in the province do not want and others do. Why can the minister not live up to his commitment to the people of North Bay and allocate those units right now?

**Mr. Brandt:** Yes, right now.

**Mr. Gillies:** North Bay now.

Interjections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** Should I respond to all that nagging, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Speaker:** Just to the supplementary.

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** What was the question again?

**Mr. Harris:** Very briefly, the minister has made a commitment to the people of North Bay if all the allocations were not taken up by other areas. I pointed out to him that he had made grave errors in the allocations and that some did not need them badly. Cambridge is one area; he allocated 150, and only 60 were picked up. In North Bay, many builders are desperate for the allocation; it also has the lowest vacancy rate in the country. I ask the minister, why will he not give them the 90 units he has right now?

**Hon. Mr. Curling:** As I said, I will look into it and consider North Bay if those people definitely drop off.

#### REPORT BY COMMITTEE

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Callahan from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills with certain amendments:



Bill Pr42, An Act respecting the Waterloo-Guelph Regional Airport.

Bill Pr50, An Act respecting Renfrew Victoria Hospital.

Motion agreed to.

**3:40 p.m.**

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### CITY OF NORTH YORK ACT

Mr. McCaffrey moved first reading of Bill Pr2, An Act Respecting the City of North York.

Motion agreed to.

### EMPIRE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ACT

Mr. South moved first reading of Bill Pr10, An Act respecting the Empire Life Insurance Company.

Motion agreed to.

### CITY OF CORNWALL ACT

Mr. Guindon moved first reading of Bill Pr17, An Act respecting the City of Cornwall.

Motion agreed to.

### ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS ACT

Mr. Reville moved first reading of Bill Pr1, An Act respecting the Ontario Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

Motion agreed to.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

### HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY ACT (continued)

Consideration of Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act.

On section 2:

**Mr. Chairman:** When we rose yesterday, we were in the middle of the amendment from the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) to add a subsection 2(3) to Bill 94. Is there any honourable member who wishes to speak on this amendment? If there is none, we have to vote on the amendment.

**Mr. Harris:** I will be delighted to lead off. Which amendment are we on?

**Mr. Chairman:** We are on the amendment by the member for Windsor-Riverside to add a subsection 2(3).

**Mr. Harris:** Can you refresh my memory?

**Mr. Chairman:** It is Bill 94.

**Mr. Brandt:** We know the bill.

**Mr. Chairman:** I was not sure whether members were aware of which bill we were on.

The member for Windsor-Riverside has moved that "A physician, optometrist or dentist referred to in subsection (1) who makes a charge for an insured service shall supply the insured person with a written statement of the charge and particulars sufficient to identify the nature of each service and the charge therefor."

**Mr. Harris:** I have a good number of concerns on this section. The member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) will express them to the House right now.

**Miss Stephenson:** It is inconceivable to me that the member for Windsor-Riverside is not aware that any opted-out physician in Ontario, any optometrist or any dentist for that matter, who intends to submit bills to patients and to the Ontario health insurance plan does precisely that at present.

A statement of account is submitted to the patient after each and every service provided. In 1974, long before it was ever required by any piece of legislation or regulation, the code of ethics of the Canadian Medical Association made it obligatory for all physicians to provide full information on every service given by an opted-out physician to a patient in order that the patient might achieve the full benefit of his insurance program.

A statement of account is delivered to the patient by each opted-out physician in Ontario, and a statement of account in the form required by OHIP is delivered to the plan. I do not believe that what the member is suggesting is going to provide much in the way of useful service to anyone since it is a duplication of the current activity of the practitioners of this province.

If he were suggesting that the insurance plan in Ontario provide to every beneficiary of the plan, that is, every patient, a statement of account of all the services rendered and paid for by opted-in physicians, about which most of the patients know nothing, then I believe he would be providing us with a useful amendment to this piece of legislation.

It has been stated many times by many people that the best consumer of any service is a well-informed consumer. A consumer of the services of an opted-out physician, for example, in Ontario is well informed about the level of billing the physician or practitioner exercises and



is aware of the benefits the plan provides as a result of the billing that is submitted.

I believe the member is probably suspicious and is imputing motives, suggesting the figures on the statements that are submitted do not coincide. They do. In my experience, which is relatively broad, physicians provide the information to OHIP about the amount that has been billed to the patient. That is the thing that is necessary. OHIP then makes the decision about what it is going to provide in the way of payment. That payment is based upon its assessment of the coding provided on the card.

The member is on the right track when he suggests there is a need for greater information for a considerable number of patients in Ontario. It is not the patients of opted-out physicians who are in need of greater information but the patients of opted-in physicians who do not know, in most instances, because there has not been a mechanism in place to provide the information about the payments that have been provided on their behalf by the insurance program for the services rendered.

I feel very strongly that we should not support the amendment suggested by the member for Windsor-Riverside, but along with my colleagues, I have drafted a supplementary amendment, which is probably much more appropriate and which we will be delighted to have the member for Windsor-Riverside support if he is trying to provide that patients be well informed in Ontario. We request the support of the minister as well for that amendment.

To attempt to suggest the requirements that are in place now in the practices of those physicians of this province who are opted out should be duplicated for some reason is an inappropriate kind of amendment.

**3:50 p.m.**

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I point out to the member for York Mills that one of the reasons for this amendment is that it was brought to my attention by a constituent, and then through follow-up conversations with OHIP, that many of the bills submitted to OHIP underestimate the amount of the extra billing. I have a specific case, but the generalization was made by OHIP.

Many opted-out doctors in this province submit their bills to OHIP, but the reality is that the bill that goes to OHIP underestimates the amount of extra billing. The amount that is actually extra billed is inaccurately reported to OHIP. This has not been checked extensively by OHIP because it limits the penalty to the province as a result. Therefore, I believe there is a

requirement in this legislation to make sure an itemized account, which is the same itemized account, is provided both to OHIP and to the individual.

I ask the former minister, in thinking about and discussing the amendment she is going to propose later and in discussing it with the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), to consider the implications of her amendment for confidentiality.

**Miss Stephenson:** I ask the member to give me the evidence upon which such a statement has been made by the officials of OHIP that there was an underestimate of the billing that was provided to the patient as a result of their review of the cards submitted to OHIP. I have no such indication. I have never heard that this is any kind of problem or that it was a matter of concern in any place.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** There is no requirement that the extra-billed amount be reported. In the majority of cases, there is no reporting to OHIP of any amount being extra billed, because OHIP reimburses on the basis of a schedule of benefits or, in limited circumstances, on the basis of the finding of a medical review committee for special procedures.

There is no reporting to OHIP of the amount extra billed. That is one of the reasons an estimate was agreed upon between the federal government and the previous provincial government at the level of \$53 million. There is no reading of the amount of extra billing here by OHIP. There is no requirement to report that.

Some doctors have told me they put on the cards what they are actually billing, but they are not in the majority; that is an exception to the situation rather than the rule.

**Miss Stephenson:** I am interested to hear the minister's response. Having inquired of the officials at OHIP whether the amount billed by opted-out physicians was recorded on the cards submitted to OHIP, I have been assured that in almost all circumstances it was; it was not that the majority of cases had no such annotation. I would like to be absolutely positive that is the situation before I even consider the kind of suggestion the member for Windsor-Riverside is making.

If the member for Windsor-Riverside wants to ensure there is a duplication, I suggest the OHIP card be sent in duplicate to physicians, who can complete it and send one copy to the patient and submit one copy to OHIP. It should be the responsibility of the insurance plan or of the Legislature to ensure this is done, since we are the ones who want to impose it.



I doubt this is going to solve any problem. I am not at all sure this is the area we should be pursuing if we are trying to ensure that we have well-informed patients.

**Mr. Henderson:** It is a pleasure to rise and ask a question that I do not think is going to get me into any trouble over here. I have a question for the member for Windsor-Riverside, who was kind enough to let me have a look at the proposed amendment. I must confess I do not quite understand, psychologically speaking, where it is coming from. If the problem is—

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** Do not talk to me about psychology.

**Mr. Henderson:** Then administratively speaking, I do not understand where it is coming from.

If the problem is that we do not have a way of knowing how large the problem of extra billing is in dollar terms, because the physician does not indicate on his card the actual fee he is charging for the service—the minister said something such as that, and I think he is right—then the amendment I have just read does not address that. The amount the practitioner records for the patient can still be different from what is on the card.

Perhaps the member can help me understand the intent of this amendment a little better than I do right now.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** There will still be doctors who are opted out under Bill 94, but they will not be allowed to extra bill. The difficulty will be in trying to identify for patients whether they are being extra billed and do not know it. We are suggesting they should have an itemized account from opted-out doctors that would be the one OHIP would get. OHIP and the patient would readily know whether there was extra billing. We do not want tipping, as the member for York Mills wants.

**Mr. Henderson:** The bill as it stands amended now says that if a physician is opted out, he can bill only at or below the amount of the OHIP tariff and that he cannot expect or insist on being paid until the patient has already been reimbursed. Surely that is enough of a control.

Surely we do not want an amendment that is going to insist that every practitioner, every time he bills a patient, show cause not to be found in defiance of the law. That contravenes the principle of being innocent until one is proven guilty and a lot of other principles too. That means it is required every time one bills a patient to show evidence that one is not breaking the law.

That is going far beyond what I and any reasonable person would consider to be a fair expectation of a professional practitioner.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I know when I have lost an amendment, so I do not want to continue to debate it. The point is that unless a patient knows what the bill is, it is going to be difficult in some cases to enforce the act properly. The amendment we carried yesterday has a provision that if a patient consents to pay before he gets the money from OHIP, he can. I would rather not have that section in, although it would have been very difficult and probably unreasonable not to allow someone, upon consent, to pay earlier than when he got his refund from OHIP.

We all know that in some cases pressure will be exerted on patients to pay immediately after the service has been provided. Just as there are people who break other laws, there will be people who will try to break this law. By getting an itemized statement, it would be easier for a patient to determine early whether he has been extra billed. Therefore, it would enhance the enforcement mechanism the minister has suggested.

**4 p.m.**

**Miss Stephenson:** I perceive that this kind of amendment is to be anticipated from someone with such a malignant and malevolent view of the goodness of humanity generally. I have difficulty in suggesting—

**Mr. McClellan:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: You heard what I heard. Is that parliamentary language?

**Mr. Chairman:** That was bothering me. The malignant view.

**Mr. McClellan:** Malignant and malevolent.

**Mr. Chairman:** Malignant and malevolent view. It is not very useful language. Maybe the member for York Mills would withdraw the words.

**Miss Stephenson:** Mr. Chairman, since the description is accurate, it pains me for you to suggest I should have to withdraw it, but if you insist that I withdraw it, then I shall.

I believe firmly there are those who appear to perceive that no one has any honour, integrity or commitment, except certain members of a certain party in this House, and everyone else should be controlled by some piece of legislation that is going to ensure that they behave in some kind of fashion which even the members of that party do not follow most of the time.

It is not a useful exercise to pass this amendment. It is not going to achieve anything,



it is not helpful and it will not provide information. It will not add anything to this already dreadful piece of legislation, except more confusion, more distress and more disturbance. I recommend strongly that we all vote it down.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** The fact that this amendment has the member for York Mills upset means it has achieved something.

**Mr. Chairman:** Does any other member wish to speak to the amendment?

All those in favour of Mr. Cooke's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

**Mr. Chairman:** Because of the nature of this amendment, we have another amendment to section 2 of the bill moved by the member for Lincoln.

Mr. Andrewes moves that section 2 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(3) The plan shall provide to each insured person, on an annual basis, a written itemized statement of all payments made by the plan on behalf of each insured person for insured services."

Do members have copies?

**Mr. Andrewes:** I have supplied the table, the minister and the member for Windsor-Riverside with copies.

I must admit I have not had an opportunity to run this amendment past legislative counsel. The wording and the intent are sincere none the less, but they are of my own composition.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: It seems to me legislative counsel will be thankful the member has not had a chance to run this amendment by them, since it has been so quickly drafted.

**Mr. Chairman:** That is not a point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I was just expressing thanks on behalf of legislative counsel.

**Mr. Andrewes:** That may well be. None the less, it is quite clear that what is asked for in this amendment is that the ministry, through OHIP, provide on an annual basis to each of its subscribers a complete itemized accounting of the services that have been paid for by the plan during that annual period.

We move this amendment because there is a very strong feeling among many of the population today that the general public is not nearly

well enough informed about the costs of operating the health care system in this province. In many cases, visits to medical practitioners and visits to emergency areas of hospitals are made for less than real health care needs. Individuals and families, in assessing their health care requirements, are not putting those requirements in the context of the costs they are incurring to the tax base of the province and nation.

At the same time, it is important that there be some type of monitoring system. It is important that individuals who are receiving insured services know that practitioners are submitting accounts on a timely and reasonable basis for the services that are delivered and that hospital services rendered to insured persons are being submitted accurately and fairly to the plan for payment. We have embodied this in this amendment.

We appreciate there may be some concerns expressed by the minister about the fact that such an amendment would be unwieldy and that it might be difficult to determine what type of mechanism could be put in place that would retain the confidentiality of a doctor-patient relationship. For instance, members of a family might visit a practitioner or a hospital for medical care and not wish other members of the family to know why they made that visit, or members of a family might refrain from obtaining medical services or advice—and it is not our wish to cause this kind of grief—because they have some fear that other members of the family might find out that they are seeking that advice or service.

**4:10 p.m.**

However, in all things there are situations where one has to set aside legitimate concerns for the sake of adding some effective accounting to the whole system. We put forward this amendment so that those who subscribe to the plan, those who are seeking the services from the plan, can examine the cost of those services and retain some perspective on that cost while at the same time providing a reasonable auditing method whereby it can be determined that the services have been provided and billed for fairly.

**Mr. Brandt:** I would like to share some of the comments of my colleague the member for Lincoln with respect to this particular amendment and propose to the Minister of Health that he take the suggestion very seriously.

It has been brought to my attention on a number of occasions, and I want the minister to know—and this is obviously the point my colleague is attempting to make—that the vast majority of users of our health system in Ontario



have no idea of the current costs of the system whatever. There are numerous cases of some abuse of the system as a result of overuse, particularly of our emergency services, when a somewhat more sensitive use of the system could reduce the cost. The abuse and/or overuse of the system tends to increase the cost.

I suggest part of the reason for that is there is no accounting, there is no discipline and there is no balance built into the system to indicate in any way, shape or form the cost of using that system.

I think when we have reached, if I may suggest this, the point where over 30 per cent of the tax dollar of Ontario going to the health system—

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** It is 32 per cent.

**Mr. Brandt:** I said over 30 and I imagine that 32 is somewhat over 30; so I was correct in suggesting that.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I thought the member was talking about his age.

**Mr. Brandt:** My age is in the same range as well. However, when close to one third of the total provincial budget is being set aside for the delivery of health services in this province, we have to start looking at some ways and means—a ban on extra billing not being one of them—of curtailing the runaway costs that are built into the system.

I have to suggest that very few people in this province know the cost of a hospital room today, either private or ward system. They have no idea of the cost of a visit to a doctor's office. They have no idea, when the doctor comes to their home, of the cost associated with that particular visit.

We can take a look at the whole vast array of services that is provided in our health system, and I have to say, and I use this term charitably, that the vast percentage of Ontario citizens is simply unaware of those costs. When one takes a look at the tremendous amount of money that is being put into the health system without any accountability, without any invoice, without any recognition whatever of what those costs really amount to, I think it is time the minister took a look at some system of at least advising people that it is tremendously expensive and that it does require his attention in some unique, different approach that might be taken by his ministry.

This concern has been raised by many of my constituents. I have had a number of letters on this. I say that to the minister by way of an admission, going back to the time I sat on that side of the House. In spite of the fact there was no action taken on this issue by the former government, perhaps this is one thing the

minister could do that would be right for a change. It is one thing he could do that might respond to the interests of some of the citizens of Ontario who feel there should be some balance built into the system that makes some sense and that would show and reflect the true costs of receiving health services in this province.

I could go on at some length. I know the minister wants me to do that and I am more than willing to embellish or amplify my remarks if they are not as well understood as they should be, but I will retire at this point and look forward to participating in the debate at a later point.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** I would like to rise and speak on this. I have had some of the same correspondence as the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) and the member for Lincoln in terms of sending out statements with respect to the cost that has been incurred on a patient's behalf, but I think the overriding concern I have at this time is from the standpoint of the confidentiality.

My concern is that we have some problems administratively. It is an unwieldy sort of system to put in place because we do not at this stage have all the addresses of all the patients in the province. We could have problems in sending out statements that might end up being delivered at someone else's house, thus making available to people other than insured persons information about their health treatment and otherwise. That would really cause me great concern.

The other issue, which the member for Lincoln acknowledged—we had spoken about it a little bit before this committee debate started—was the fact that it might deter some members of a family from actually seeking treatment, because they might be concerned that their treatment was not being kept confidential and was being made known, inappropriately, to other members of the family.

Those concerns are large enough for us to consider this amendment certainly not timely. I can really sympathize with those people who would like to know the costs of the system, but the overriding factor for me is confidentiality. From that standpoint, I cannot support this amendment at this time.

It might be a different set of circumstances if there was a way we could identify each particular insured person in the province. It might be a different set of circumstances if we could absolutely guarantee that the health information of each of those people was not going to go astray. It would be a different circumstance if I could come up with some hard information that the provision of this statement would have some



mediating effect on the consumption of health services. In fact, it was tried, as I understand it, in Quebec and was discontinued after a couple of years, but I am not certain of that. It was started at least in sending out statements. The member for York Mills shakes her head. I stand corrected if that is not right, but I think I have been advised of that.

For the purposes of the member for Sarnia, some hospitals do send statements to patients. Not all of them do, but some do. There is a little bit of that going on in some hospitals.

**Mr. Brandt:** Only if there is an extra charge.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** Not only in that situation. Sometimes a statement is provided even if there is no extra charge. It is not done widely.

We had a public forum on this in Kingston. An economist there had advised that, although the desire in sending a statement out is to reduce the consumption by making people aware of the costs of the health services consumed, in some situations, from the analysis he had done—and he advised us of his analysis—it had the opposite effect. People felt they were not getting their money's worth for the premium they were paying because they were consuming less than what their premium was. That was brought to our attention at a forum in Kingston. There is an argument on the other side of the salutary effect of sending out these statements.

I have put all those items together to advise people there are real problems in bringing this together. I have some sympathy for the idea and the concept behind it, but from my standpoint, it is not something we can make work properly while ensuring the integrity of the confidential nature of the health services delivered to those insured in the province. I cannot support this type of amendment at this time.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** We will not be supporting this amendment, and I encourage the Conservative caucus to withdraw the amendment. I do not think they considered the implications for confidentiality. I am sure the member for York Mills as a professional would understand that confidentiality is absolutely essential not only to the medical profession but also to social work, to psychology and to psychiatry.

If we are talking about disrupting the patient-doctor relationship, this kind of amendment would absolutely destroy it. What happens if someone moves who has received treatment for venereal disease and was exposed to that?

**Miss Stephenson:** You do not put that on it.  
4:20 p.m.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** The member is telling me this kind of information will just be codes that will be meaningless to the patient anyway. It would absolutely destroy confidentiality. I do not think that party thought of this implication when it decided to put this amendment forward. Let common sense prevail and withdraw the amendment. Let us get on to the next one.

By the way, there are 14 million OHIP numbers and only eight million people. Where are those extra six million annual statements going to go?

**Mr. Brandt:** If there is anything that will destroy the doctor-patient relationship in this province, it is Bill 94. It has nothing to do with the problem of confidentiality in the proposed submission of bills to patients or a statement of the visits that patients make to their doctors.

In response to the minister, who has escaped for the moment, it is recognized that it is against the law for someone else to open one's mail and that a good deal of care and sensitivity would be taken into account in such a statement that would be delivered to a patient. If there was, as the member for Windsor-Riverside suggests, an area of mental disorder or some other area of health concern, that would not be reported in a blatant way in such a statement. It could be done in such a way as to simply indicate a visit to a doctor without giving away the total information on what the nature of that visit was all about.

It is against the law to open someone else's mail. There are a lot of confidential documents relating to bills, such as Visa bills or income tax reports, a whole series of things that someone may prefer that another member of the family not see but that come to our homes on a regular basis. I see no reason this type of information could not come to the home on a regular basis as well.

To suggest, as the minister did, that because people pay an OHIP premium or have a certain amount invested in the health system on an annual basis, they would automatically want to use up that credit in some fashion really boggles the mind in some respects.

If that logic were followed, then every time one got insurance on one's car, one would make sure one had an annual accident that would be at least up to the level of the premium paid on the policy. One would make sure that one burned down one's house once a year, would one not? One pays a premium on one's house insurance and therefore one automatically has to recover one's investment. Lord help us if someone has insured another member of the family. I guess



one would have to dispose of him or her as well to collect the insurance on that.

That line of reasoning is so illogical that I am sorry the minister is not here to listen to some of my responses to that ludicrous situation he has put forth, that people would automatically use up their premiums. Logically, I would think it would be the other way around.

Most people simply do not know the costs associated with the services they are getting today. If they saw what those costs were, how expensive those services were to deliver to those people, they would stand back and, out of a sense of responsibility, would say: "I am going to do something about this. I am not going to abuse the system. I am not going to overuse the system. I am not going to use emergency services when I do not have to use them. I might go to the hospital during regular hours."

**Mr. McClellan:** Wait for a house call.

**Mr. Brandt:** I might get a house call in some circumstances, but the fact of the matter is that to suggest that all the people of Ontario, or a good portion of them, would automatically use up their credit through this measure we are proposing is simply ludicrous.

**Mr. McFadden:** Listening to the minister's response to the amendment proposed by the member for Lincoln moved me to intervene and make a couple of statements.

First, in relation to the value of people knowing what their health care costs might be and whether that has been the pattern at other institutions in the health care field, I simply point out to the minister that I know the Hospital for Sick Children has a practice of providing to parents, when their child is discharged, a statement itemizing the cost of that child's stay.

About two years ago, my daughter was in the Hospital for Sick Children for a three-day stay for treatment of a condition known as cellulitis. When she was discharged, we received a statement from the hospital showing that the cost of her care in the Hospital for Sick Children was something over \$900 for the three days. The thing I was struck by was not the desire to get her back into hospital so that I could utilize the space more the next month, the following year or two years later. I really appreciated the fact that the taxpayers of Ontario had incurred an expense of \$900 to help my little girl get better. I felt it was one of the best things I had seen to point out to me the real cost of health care in Ontario.

We can talk about \$10 billion and these gigantic sums. The average person cannot understand or appreciate what that means, but

one thing the average person can appreciate is the cost of the care for himself, his children or his relatives. In my mind, that particular policy by hospitals is something I can even see being a requirement across Ontario because I believe people would appreciate far more what they were getting for their tax dollars and the tremendous cost of health care if they were to receive statements for all aspects of health care from hospitals through to charges for their doctors.

With regard to the doctors, as the amendment sets out, the same principle applies completely. Today many people have a feeling the treatment they are receiving is free, that it is not something they really have to pay for, though obviously somebody pays for this service. It is every single taxpayer and individual in Ontario. It is an extremely good service, and I think it is worth the money that is being paid for it. I do not think we have anything to hide by providing to patients an outline on an annual basis of the cost of their health care.

I find it remarkable that one of the major reasons put forward that this cannot work is that the statements cannot be sent out. There is a problem here somehow with getting statements to various people who should get them. I have not been struck by the fact that OHIP has any difficulty getting bills to people on a timely basis. I fail to see why there would be a problem getting out annualized statements to patients throughout Ontario on the cost of the medical service that was provided to them individually.

We have also heard that the taxpayers might not be responsible, that if they got a billing that showed they did not utilize the service enough, they might feel they had to go in and start using doctors a lot more. I have a lot more confidence in the taxpayers and citizens of Ontario than to believe that millions of Ontarians would start overutilizing the system because they got bills that showed they had not been sick much that year and so they should get to their doctors right away and start spending a lot of the public's money. I do not believe the taxpayer would react that way.

Sure, there is the odd person out there who would receive a statement and say: "My goodness, I spent only \$100 visiting the doctor this year. I had better get out there and spend another few hundred dollars, go in and get a whole bunch of tests done and see the doctor on a weekly basis to get more of my tax dollar back." I do not believe there is a reasonable person who would do that and, as a consequence, I do not believe that kind of lack of faith in the taxpayer of



Ontario should be used as a basis for speaking against this motion.

**4:30 p.m.**

As for whether this would deter people from seeking treatment, I do not think there is anybody in need of a physician who would not go to a physician because a statement would come out once a year outlining his utilization of the system. It is not logical, it is not sensible and no one I have ever heard of reacts that way. If he has to go to the doctor to receive a service, he will go to the doctor. Getting an annual statement is not going to deter him. I cannot think of a single professional service for which one is not billed, let alone receiving a statement.

What we are talking about here is essentially not an annual billing that people will have to pay. All we propose is that people have a statement in which there will be an outline of the services they have received and the cost of those services. It is amazing to me that anybody would say that in some way would deter people from having treatment.

There are other government services for which we do not receive specific statements, but on the other hand, this is a unique service in the sense that it is being provided by a professional to a person. There are very few other services I can think of in government where there is a direct relationship between the recipient of the service and the professional providing it.

The education system, which accounts for a large part of government expenditure, at least in Toronto, provides a statement annually to the taxpayers about how the taxes are used with respect to education costs. That goes to every taxpayer. There does not seem to be any valid reason this professional service provided by the medical profession should not be accounted for and a billing or a statement of account provided to each and every patient annually. I cannot see a good, rational reason.

There could be some functional problems, but in this era of advanced technology—and we have heard about how Ontario is about to become world-class, as if it is not already, in technology and technological innovation—surely it is not beyond human ingenuity to find an efficient and effective way of getting a statement of his utilization of the health care system to every recipient once a year. I do not believe it is beyond the ingenuity of mankind. I do not believe it is beyond the ingenuity of the Ontario government. All we have to do is look at the tax system and all the other systems where statements are sent out to

know timely statements can be sent out in a fashion that would meet our needs.

This is a departure from the past, but this legislation is a major departure from the past. It seems to me it is only fair and reasonable that the taxpayers receive a statement in an itemized fashion once a year.

**Mr. Henderson:** May I again ask for a point of clarification? I like the idea of this amendment, because it seems to me many people do not begin to appreciate the crushing and astronomically increasing costs of health care services. I am sure the intent of this amendment is to try to address that failure and to try to encourage people to take some interest in the incredible deployment of resources in personnel and materials that go into the provision of health care.

I may not have caught this when the statement was proposed. Would the statement go to the patient or the plan holder at the end of the year? Has there been some consideration about what happens if the patient is a minor or if there are issues of mental incompetency and so on? I am concerned that this be thought through very carefully before an amendment of this sort becomes operational. It might turn out to be more difficult and more complex in the implementation than it is in the principle, with which many people would agree.

**Miss Stephenson:** The complexity is of concern. It was never intended that such a statement would detail specifically the kinds of services that have been provided for each patient. It was intended that for each member of the family there would be a listing of the total amount paid to physicians or other health professionals, the total amount paid for laboratory services, for hospital admission or for other health services that are benefits under the act.

In addition, as I said, this would apply for all members of the family. It would provide a total for all members and then a breakdown for each. There was not an intent that there be any release of confidential information regarding any diagnosis. That is not part of this recommendation at all.

The amendment we have produced meets the requirement that has been stated clearly by a number of economists. I never cease to be amazed that when a group of economists get together, if there are five economists, one has six opinions, the opinion of each one plus the group's. The assistant deputy minister of Health is no different from any other health economist; they all have their own points of view.



However, enough health economists have agreed it is necessary for subscribers to an insurance program to understand the amount of money that has been expended on their behalf. One does not receive benefits of any other insurance plan without knowing how much has been paid on his behalf, primarily because in most instances either it is paid directly to him or a copy of the cheque that is sent to a repair company is sent to him as well, or he has an estimate.

In this instance, ever since the introduction of the health insurance in Canada, no mechanism has been put in place on a universal basis which would ensure that those patients, who never see the account that is submitted, would have any idea of how much was expended on their behalf.

The hospitals tried. Early in the 1970s, on a fairly widespread basis throughout Metropolitan Toronto and in some other parts of the province as well, the hospitals began to provide at the time of discharge an itemized statement which informed each patient exactly how much the health insurance plan was supporting the delivery of health care on his or her behalf. It seemed to me that was not vigorously encouraged by the Ministry of Health at that point, and there was no specific provision made in the arrangements with hospitals which would allow this to happen with any ease.

The information that is now available within the OHIP computers would not make this administratively difficult; it would be very easy. The diagnosis and the codes do not necessarily need to be part of the statement, but the statement can be produced, because the codes are there and are easily accessed to provide the information that is necessary.

We have been very much concerned about confidentiality. I recognize the rationale that is the basis for that concern. I practised medicine long enough to be very much aware of the need for confidentiality in some very stringent and strange circumstances when one would have thought one member of the family, particularly one member of the marriage, would be delighted to tell the other precisely what was going on. That is not always so. It is necessary to ensure that kind of breach of confidentiality is not achieved by this sharing of information.

I believe, as has been said before, that it is not beyond the ingenuity of technology and of those involved in administering that technology in Ontario to achieve this form of useful information dissemination which, in the minds of many economists, would have a very beneficial effect

upon the overutilization. I will say that clearly and loudly, because there is overutilization. The members see it and I see it on a regular basis. Nobody phones grandmother any more to find out what to do about a sore throat; instead, one goes to the emergency department to cost the system a rather large amount, just short of \$100 in most cases, to find out that all one needs to do is to keep the child in bed and have the child gargle a little.

**4:40 p.m.**

There is no doubt in my mind that it would have a very salutary effect on the mindset of many members of society in this province and that in the long term it would be beneficial for the health care system as far as the rate of utilization and the rate of growth of utilization are concerned. That is a reasonable direction to pursue.

The confidentiality of the doctor-patient relationship already is potentially breached as a result of some aspects of Bill 94. We do not intend to breach it further, but we do intend to provide for an informed citizenry who will be able to make decisions based on facts rather than on a nebulous understanding that since everybody pays for this, every service that is received is gratis to the individual recipient.

That mindset and attitude can no longer continue when the growth of utilization and of cost increase by geometric progression, as they do in the health care field. That must be controlled. Truthfully, the only way it can be controlled is for the individual member of society to control the use of the system in a more appropriate way than seems to be occurring now in many instances. Therefore, I believe this is a very rational, reasonable, appropriate kind—

**Mr. McClellan:** We do not want any unnecessary tonsillectomies wholesale.

**Miss Stephenson:** The member for Bellwoods should know that one does not do tonsillectomies wholesale. That might have been some kind of fad at the time he was an infant, but it no longer is. It is a procedure that is carried out only when it is proved to be absolutely necessary. Within this country, perhaps there are many more responsible practitioners of health science than in some other jurisdictions. These difficulties are not the kind we have to face on a regular basis.

This is a rational, reasoned amendment that would improve the circumstances surrounding the delivery of health care in Ontario, that would make the individual subscribers more informed and that would help them to understand better the consequences of utilization of the health care



system. It would ensure that they would use the system in a much more informed and intelligent way than many of them have in the past. This amendment is very worthy of the support of all parties in this House.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I am not surprised at the focus of the Conservative Party in this amendment. The focus has nothing to do with consumer education. The focus of the amendment is that they think patients in this province by and large abuse the health care system. That is what the member for York Mills said.

**Miss Stephenson:** I did not say that.

**Mr. Brandt:** Nobody said that.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** That is exactly what the member for York Mills said. I listened to every word she said. The member for Sarnia was not even in the room.

**Miss Stephenson:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: For 10 years, I have listened to my words being distorted by the member for Windsor-Riverside—

**Mr. Chairman:** Order. That last word was not necessary. We are getting close to imputing motives to the member for Windsor-Riverside. "Distorted" is not proper. Will the member for York Mills please be seated? Those are not suitable words. The member for Windsor-Riverside may carry on.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I heard the comments that were made by members of the Conservative Party. I said their view was that there are people who use the health care system who need not use the health care system. That is it exactly. The member for York Mills gave the example that people should be gargling—

**Mr. Brandt:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I would like to point out that the words currently being used by the member for Windsor-Riverside are entirely different from those he used a moment ago, which was the point of order my colleague stood up on.

**Mr. Chairman:** I asked him to use different wording from what he used before.

**Mr. Brandt:** I would just like to point it out and make it clear in Hansard that he is using different language now.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** What I said was that the Conservative Party was accusing the people of this province of abusing the health care system. That is exactly what the member for York Mills did. The member gave the example of people who go to see a doctor instead of gargling for a sore throat.

The fact of the matter is that if the member for York Mills and the Conservative Party are very concerned about the abuse of the health care system, they may want to look at one of the basic principles of our health care system, fee for service, which encourages doctors to see people time after time and be financially rewarded. That is a basic problem in our health care system. As long as we pay by piecework we are going to have that kind of system.

We all agree with the principle of consumers being informed. The practicality of the amendment the Conservative Party has presented us today is impossible to accept. The member for York Mills can say they are going to code the annual statements, but the reality is—let me be very specific—if an 18-year-old daughter who is still at home has an annual statement sent and a procedure was performed during the year that cost a few hundred dollars, then the family, whom she may not want to have know she has had a therapeutic abortion, could be identified.

There are real problems of confidentiality. If the Conservative Party cannot respect and accept that its amendment has not been thought out, the bottom line is that this amendment is absolutely stupid. Let us defeat it and get on with the next section.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Before I go too much further, I have to give the member for Windsor-Riverside a living example of the point the member for York Mills and others were trying to make.

Last Thursday evening, as I was about to embark on a sports endeavour, I was suddenly, and to my surprise, struck down by an errant baseball. After a series of consultations with my colleagues, who did not include the member for York Mills but did include a number of others and members of the gallery who came to my rescue—the member for Sarnia gave me his hankie, and so on—it was decided I should journey to the Toronto General Hospital emergency department.

There, in spite of the activities or nonactivities going on in our health care system in the province generated by the act of terrorism that the minister has perpetrated on the medical practitioners in Ontario, Bill 94, I was treated with extreme courtesy and very quickly.

I was taken to an appropriate room in the emergency department and attended to very quickly by the floor nurse. I was provided with ice packs and all the other usual necessities. I was examined by a doctor, who indicated he wanted another opinion on this major injury I was



suffering from. He called in a specialist, who examined the injured tissue.

**Mr. Philip:** Is it true they did a CAT scan and found nothing?

**Mr. Andrewes:** I am not sure the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) knows what a CAT scanner is.

**Mr. Philip:** It is what they use to scan a cat. I took my cat to the veterinarian; he did a cat scan last week.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order.

**4:50 p.m.**

**Mr. Andrewes:** When there is a hospital in that member's riding that wants a CAT scanner, he will find out what it is and he will be the first one to know.

To continue with my example: Following the second opinion that was given about my injury, I was taken to the X-ray area and a series of X-rays was taken. The X-rays were examined by the doctor who had first seen me.

**Mr. Chairman:** Speaking to the amendment.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I am. He sought a further opinion from a radiologist. All of this took place in a matter of two and a half hours. Following that, I was released and allowed to go home, and I was asked to report back in a week.

To this day and I expect to time immemorial, unless this amendment is accepted, I will not know what that evening cost the health care system. I will not have any idea what fees were charged for those specialists who visited me during that time. I will have no idea what fees were charged by the radiologist who examined the X-ray plates at the request of the individual. I will have no idea whether the system has properly reimbursed the doctor or whether the Toronto General Hospital has been properly reimbursed for those services.

The member for Windsor-Riverside suggests our party is focusing on the abuses of the system. With the whole question of utilization being the major factor driving the increased costs of health care not only in this province but probably in every other province in this country as well, responsible legislators who are being asked to vote this year for in excess of \$9 billion of taxpayers' money towards supporting the health care system should not be ashamed to suggest that there should be some reconciliation for those expenditures.

The member is blind to those facts. He wants to pass off the blame on a fee-for-service system. Even the medical practitioners might agree it is

time the system needed some further examination.

**Miss Stephenson:** That is what they have suggested.

**Mr. Andrewes:** They have suggested that, and they are only waiting for the government to sit down quietly with them, once this whole current kerfuffle has been resolved, to sort out a method by which they can effectively examine the system and give it some scrutiny and advice.

I do not make any apologies for putting the amendment. The member for Windsor-Riverside has been somewhat embarrassed by the amendment and is trying to cover up his embarrassment by diverting our attention to other matters.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** I might have a solution that the Conservative Party, our party and the government could support. I tabled an amendment with the Conservative Party last week on section 2; it called for itemized statements. I will read it.

"(2) A practitioner who renders a service that includes an insured service to an insured person shall give to the person and to the plan an itemized statement of the amount charged for rendering that service.

"(3) this statement shall be prepared in the prescribed manner."

The Conservative Party has made some good points on education of consumers, but we have supplied adequate information on the problems with its proposal. This one would apply to opted-in and opted-out doctors. Perhaps if the member for Lincoln would agree, he could withdraw his amendment. I could then move this, we could support it and get on with the next section.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I might explore that possibility if the member agreed to include laboratory fees, hospital charges and other costs that are incurred by individuals in the health care system. I would also agree that we could explore those possibilities if the system itself, rather than the practitioner or the deliverer under compulsion, produced this receipt.

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** The fact is that the Conservative Party does not like this amendment because it does not want to do anything that forces any accountability for the practitioners in this province. All it wants to do is to put in place systems that it thinks will deter patients from what it calls abuses of the health care system.

**Miss Stephenson:** The amendment suggested by the member for Windsor-Riverside is an interesting first step in the direction of ensuring



informed consumerism in the health care system. It does not include the many other items within health care that are benefits under OHIP that should be itemized in whatever information is provided.

I believe informed consumers would understand that things have changed rather dramatically in the past 25 years. I am terribly distressed the member for Windsor-Riverside is such a juvenile that he does not remember the days when parents did care for their children and made the first stab at treatment in the most appropriate way because they understood it was a parental responsibility. There is no doubt in my mind that many parents do that now, but there has been and continues to be an increase, which is frequently not entirely appropriate, in the additional utilization of many facilities and services that are not necessary for the preservation or improvement of health.

The minister would have to agree that the provision of health care services under our national health insurance program has not decreased morbidity very dramatically, nor has it decreased mortality very dramatically. The major improvements in those factors for human beings are primarily a result of the human being taking responsibility for the maintenance of his or her health with the additional assistance of the health professionals who are available.

A useful and straightforward suggestion has been made in our proposed amendment, which I am sure can be administered in a way that would overcome the possibilities of the very distressing breaches of confidentiality, such as the one suggested by the member for Windsor-Riverside, and would obviate difficulties that might arise within a family. However, there is merit in looking very carefully at some mechanism that would ensure the subscribers to OHIP in Ontario have some understanding on a regular basis of the total expenditure that the taxpayers of this province provide in support of their utilization of the health care system. I believe that is a reasonable kind of proposal.

No one is attempting to lay blame at anyone's door. No one is attempting to suggest it is not sociological change that has inspired many of the current practices of asking for professional help immediately instead of utilizing some common sense of one's own to try to solve problems. No one is suggesting that any specific blame is to be attached to any group within society, certainly not to parents, patients or anyone else. What we are suggesting is that it will be helpful if those who utilize the system and those who provide the

services are as informed as possible about the cost of providing those services.

**5 p.m.**

One of the things that worries me at present is the fact that the medical students today do not know what the cost of laboratory testing is. As a result of the kinds of defensive medicine they feel compelled to practise as a result of litigation and other kinds of activities, I believe they are overordering laboratory testing. The cost of that is astronomical.

I firmly believe that if those students and all physicians were aware of the cost of the individual testing programs that are utilized on behalf of patients, they would be a good deal more sensitive to the requirements to define the specific tests that need to be used for specific patients. I would much rather have them use what is available within the contents of their craniums to sort out the patient's problem than rely on the capability of testing machines that will simply run the gamut of all the biological and physiological testing that can be done to try to determine what the problem is.

I am not suggesting that is not a problem as well. I believe information regarding the cost of the provision of service must be provided not only to those who are subscribers but also to those who are providing service. This is simply a mechanism for ensuring that the subscribers receive some of the information, and I hope we will find a mechanism to ensure that the providers receive the appropriate information, so both can be equally responsible in their participation in the health care system in this province.

**5:25 p.m.**

The committee divided on Mr. Andrewes's amendment to section 2 of the bill, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 35; nays 59.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Mr. Andrewes moves that section 2 of the bill, as amended, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"2(1) A physician or an optometrist who does not submit his or her accounts directly to the plan under section 21 or 11 of the Health Insurance Act or a dentist shall not charge more or accept payment for more than the amount payable under the plan for rendering an insured service to an insured person who,

"(a) is 65 or more years of age;

"(b) is receiving,

"(i) premium assistance under the Health Insurance Act,



“(ii) assistance under the General Welfare Assistance Act,

“(iii) benefits under the Family Benefits Act,

“(iv) unemployment insurance under the Unemployment Insurance Act (Canada),

“(v) a disability pension under any public or private pension plan,

“(vi) vocational rehabilitation services under the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act, or

“(vii) any public financial assistance prescribed by the regulations; or

“(c) has no choice but to have that particular physician, optometrist or dentist render that service because of the need for emergency treatment or because it is not reasonably practicable to delay treatment.

**5:30 p.m.**

“(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a physician, an optometrist or a dentist who charges more or accepts payment for more than the amount payable under the plan for rendering an insured service to an insured person described in clause (1)(a) or (b) without knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the person is a person described in clause 1(a) or (b).

“(3) A physician, an optometrist or a dentist who accepts payment for more than the amount payable under the plan for rendering an insured service to an insured person described in clause (1)(a) or (b), on becoming aware that the person is a person described in clause (1)(a) or (b), shall forthwith pay to the person the amount by which the amount received exceeds the amount payable under the plan.

“(4) A physician or an optometrist who does not submit his or her account directly to the plan under section 21 or 11 of the Health Insurance Act or a dentist shall not charge more or accept payment for more than the amount payable under the plan for rendering an insured service to an insured person without first giving the person reasonable prior notice of the amount by which the charge exceeds the amount payable under the plan.”

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I submit to you that the amendment presented by the Conservative Party is substantially similar to an amendment put forward by the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson), which has already been voted on and defeated. I suggest it is out of order and should be ruled as such.

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** On the same point of order, Mr. Chairman: If you examine Hansard of yesterday or the day before, you will recall the member for Lincoln stood in his place and indicated this was an amendment that was better

drafted but substantially the same as that placed by the member for Humber and supported by his party. In addition, a second speaker indicated clearly his feeling that the Conservative amendment was better drafted but was also to the same extent.

We have already decided upon having a limited ban included in this bill by voting, as committee of the whole House, against the amendments placed here by the member for Humber. That having once been decided, it would be out of order for us to be asked again to vote on a similar motion that is substantially the same but changes only with respect to different words that have been added to the section.

**Mr. Andrewes:** By his own admission, the minister has indicated this amendment has undergone a better drafting, although I now have had some errors drawn to my attention by legislative counsel and we would be glad to make sure those errors are addressed before we come to some final decision on this amendment. Since it has undergone substantive change and is in a form more in keeping with the legislative style and wording we are accustomed to in legislation, you, sir, have no choice but to accept this amendment and put it out for debate.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I ask my honourable colleagues to wait for a few minutes.

After quickly comparing the two amendments that were proposed, that of the member for Humber and that of the member for Lincoln, I am of the opinion that the member for Lincoln has expanded the amendment. Therefore, I suggest he continue debating.

Interjections.

**5:40 p.m.**

**Mr. Andrewes:** I was waiting for the exchanges to die down so we could carry on.

We have put this amendment to the House principally because of our concern that the discussions that have taken place to date between the government and the Ontario Medical Association have not produced a negotiated settlement that would negate the—

**Mr. Callahan:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I have no right to challenge your ruling, but under standing order 19(d)3, I submit with respect that my friend has no right to speak on any of the points in his proposed amendment that were decided earlier during the current session. He can speak on any of the new ones but not on any of those that have already been dealt with.



**The Deputy Chairman:** I remind the honourable member that I have rendered a decision, and therefore I should abide by it.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I am sure the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan) is prejudging what my comments might be with respect to the amendment that is being put. Perhaps it is his privilege to make that prejudgement. In the case of our amendment, what were his other words?

**Mr. McClellan:** Why do you not tell us about your trip to the hospital again?

**Mr. Andrewes:** I might tell my friend about my trip to the hospital.

**Mr. McClellan:** I am sure you will. I am sure you will waste everybody's time.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I do not intend to waste anybody's time. If the member listens carefully, he may learn something.

The reason we have put this amendment, of course, is that the government has not been able to bring to a reasonable conclusion its negotiations with the OMA and has indicated it is pressing forward with the debate on Bill 94 and has the intention of implementing Bill 94.

I want to go back to the discussions that were held last fall, I believe, in which the district health councils were asked to convene a series of meetings in communities across the province.

**Mr. McClellan:** Which year was this?

**Mr. Andrewes:** It was 1985, during which the minister, his staff and others, along with interested members of the public—few that they were, as we understand it—were able to come to those meetings to discuss what had been publicly indicated as the government's intention to end the practice of extra billing.

**Mr. McClellan:** Boring.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Boring?

**Mr. McClellan:** Did somebody say "boring"?

**Mr. Andrewes:** That is almost as bad as "silly."

These sessions were intended to convince the public, although I assume the minister will suggest to me that they were educational sessions intended to allow the public to come forward and ask their questions to gain information on the whole subject of the billing practices of the medical profession. On the basis of the attendance at the forums, they did not reach out to many of the general public to stir their concerns about a very important issue, which is the preservation of the health care system.

There were perhaps other discussions that took place informally between the government and the

OMA during the time those public meetings were convened. Those discussions, by the minister's own admission during the estimates process last fall, were not effective. Nothing meaningful was accomplished in them, and nothing meaningful was gained out of those meetings.

It brought us to that date in December when the minister rose in his place in this House and introduced Bill 94. It was described by many as draconian. The intent of the bill was even described at one time by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) as draconian.

Bill 94 is the reason we are here today. That bill, after receiving a reasonable debate in the Legislature, went to committee, where a series of public meetings was held.

**Mr. Foulds:** You were not there.

**Mr. Andrewes:** Unfortunately, I was not in the committee during that period. I would have been delighted to have been in the committee during that time; however, I was about other matters, as the Treasury critic of the New Democratic Party knows full well. In fact, he may remember some of those discussions we had on gasoline prices where he said oil prices were not going to go down nearly as much as they have now. No, I do not want to get off the topic, but I am sure the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) will well remember those discussions.

The minister has indicated to us that he held a series of 11 meetings with the OMA—I believe it was 11—which he called formal negotiations. No doubt he was aided and abetted in those meaningful discussions—I do not like to call them negotiations; I will come to that argument in a minute—by his colleague—

**Hon. Mr. Elston:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: The member is not speaking directly to the amendments. He should not be commenting on some historical analysis of what took place or did not take place with respect to negotiations. In my understanding of this, he should be speaking directly to each part of his amendments, which you say he can address. This historical analysis has nothing whatsoever to do with the amendments.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Will the member for Lincoln please address the chair?

**Mr. Andrewes:** I am sorry if I have strayed from the amendments. I have some carefully prepared remarks here, and I am following a sequence of events that led up to the introduction of Bill 94 and the subsequent discussions that went on both in this House and outside the House. Although we were not privy to those



discussions, we understand bits and pieces of that information keep coming forward. My remarks lead up to why we are introducing these amendments to Bill 94; so I will ignore the interjections of the minister and will proceed.

It is our understanding that during the series of 11 meetings which took place between the government and the OMA, the government being represented by the Minister of Health and by the member for St. David, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), tabled a 10-point program. This was outlined quite clearly by the minister just last week in a speech in Sault Ste. Marie, I believe, in which he indicated the government had tabled a 10-point program.

We read in the papers today that even the OMA admitted that in the context of that program it felt it had the substance to reach some resolution of this dispute.

In his answers to questions, the minister has said that during these negotiations he was exploring opportunities for settlement and looking at options. He has indicated obliquely, and the OMA has indicated in very strong terms in a letter to him, that during those discussions the minister agreed to the following. I will quote from a letter to the minister from Dr. Scully, chairman of the board of directors of the OMA.

"Over the course of several meetings, you and Mr. Scott repeatedly and forcefully offered to allow all physicians to opt out and extra bill at will in the event that fee negotiations fail to produce an agreement. We maintain that the decision to opt out is a matter of individual freedom and should not be viewed as part of any collective action."

**5:50 p.m.**

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. Please keep your remarks on the amendment you have proposed.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I intend to do that. I believe I am well within those confines. However, I will try to be a little more direct.

We have proposed these amendments for the following reason. As a result of the 11 meetings and the failure of the government to reach an agreement with the OMA, the OMA came forward to the standing committee on social development and made a proposal which in its view—and I have no reason to question its figures; perhaps others might—would address about half the instances in which individuals were billed beyond the OHIP fee schedule.

In other words, the 3.5 per cent of the services that were rendered in this province and billed above the fee schedule would have been reduced

by approximately half by an undertaking from the OMA not to extra bill seniors, people on public assistance and those receiving treatment in emergency areas.

This amendment enshrines into Bill 94 the position taken by the OMA during that submission to the social development committee. It does not end extra billing; we recognize that. However, it does go a long way towards resolving substantially the problems of the billing practices that have arisen in Ontario.

Our amendment, coupled with the indication from the OMA in its recent proposal to the minister that it would provide all services to all people in any part of the province at the OHIP rate, moved this association and its representatives a long way from the position they had taken at the outset of the negotiating process. I am sure the minister would acknowledge that position was one of not being willing to recognize at all that there was a significant problem with billing practices.

Two parties came to the table: the government and the OMA. Through 11 meetings, we see that one side of the discussion moved substantially towards reconciling the problem. The other side at the table moved little or not at all. I will qualify my last statement by referring once again to the articles in today's *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star* in which Dr. Scully indicates that in a letter to the Attorney General they thought they had the germ of a solution to the problem, but in fact that was not the case.

We have put forward these amendments to enshrine in a legislative form an offer made by the organization that represents the physicians in this province that would be a step towards a resolution to the rancour that currently exists. Through the amendment, we have enumerated a number of instances and categories of individuals. Medical practitioners agree they should not be billed for more than the OHIP fee.

In this amendment, we have indicated to the minister that practitioners are prepared to move towards this solution and by our subsection 4 have enshrined once again the principle that no individual in Ontario should be required to pay extra unless he or she has been given proper notice prior to the treatment and the bill being rendered for that treatment.

**Mr. Laughren:** Time.

**Mr. Andrewes:** My colleague from northern Ontario says it is time. I will be glad to stand down so he will have an opportunity to speak in a fulsome way on this amendment.



**Miss Stephenson:** The amendments being proposed are a very reasonable direction to pursue—

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** On point of order, Mr. Chairman: If we were operating on a municipal council or a school board, the member for York Mills would not be allowed to speak, because it would be considered a conflict of interest.

**The Deputy Chairman:** That is not a point of order.

**Miss Stephenson:** I am intrigued to know that suddenly some kind of concern about integrity has hit the member for Windsor-Riverside. That is an unusual situation for him. I have represented the constituents of York Mills in this Legislature for almost 11 years. I do not involve myself actively in the practice of medicine. I am and am proud to be a physician. I am proud to be a graduate of the faculty of medicine of the University of Toronto, 40 years ago this weekend, as a matter of fact, and we are celebrating our 40th anniversary.

I believe I do not have a conflict of interest in pursuing this discussion. I do however have a slightly more complete knowledge of the kind of situation that is prevalent within the province in the area of health care delivery by physicians, and I believe it is my responsibility to share that with the members of the Legislature. If I were not to do that, I feel I would be derelict in my duty to the members of the Legislature and to the people of Ontario and of my riding.

Is it appropriate, Mr. Chairman, that I then be allowed to continue with my participation in this discussion?

**The Deputy Chairman:** Yes.

6 p.m.

**Miss Stephenson:** Thank you, sir. I appreciate that.

I believe the amendments that have been put forward by my colleague the member for Lincoln are not only appropriate but also meet the problem in the most significant way and will ensure that we have a continuing high-quality health care system in Ontario. The amendments we have suggested and propose to the Legislature at this point would ensure that no citizen over the age of 65 would be billed for any service at a level beyond the level of benefit that is provided by OHIP.

The individuals involved are not, in many instances, financially bereft, but it was the proposal of the medical profession and a reasonable position as accepted by large number of those in this category as an appropriate move

to prevent discomfort or any kind of distress on the part of those over the age of 65 whose incomes were limited or were relatively fixed and who would be in need of service with more frequency than many other members of our society.

**Mr. Laughren:** It's tin-cup medicine; means-test medicine. Do you want welfare or medicare?

**Miss Stephenson:** It is difficult to continue to debate in reasonable form in this Legislature when the member from Capreol continues to suggest that the member standing at present is, as was suggested earlier by a colleague of the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), reverting to support for what they are pleased to call charity medicine.

I remind those members again that they know not what charity is. I remind them there is a very important passage of the Bible, which it would be well that they read with some frequency, which states that the virtues—these were stated, I believe, by the offspring of our Supreme Being—that are important in this life are faith, hope and charity, and the greatest of these is charity.

Charity is love for one's fellow man, and it is assuming responsibility on behalf of those individuals as a result of that love. Unhappily, those two members of the New Democratic Party do not understand that, do not have any, and therefore cannot participate in this discussion except through the annoying and dreadfully pejorative suggestions that somebody is going around with a tin cup.

**Mr. McClellan:** Is there not also something about "Judge not, lest ye be judged"?

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. Just ignore the interjections.

**Miss Stephenson:** I believe the most appropriate thing for me to do is to develop an earplug for my left ear so I cannot hear the silly remarks coming from the left on this side of the chamber.

In addition to those who have provided for us the excellent society within which we function and for whose health care needs this amendment is attempting to ensure security, we believe there are others who should receive the benefit of that kind of security.

Any individual who requires or is provided with premium assistance under the Health Insurance Act—and that matter is under the control of the minister and can be amended on a regular basis—will benefit from this, as will those in receipt of assistance under the General Welfare Assistance Act or the Family Benefits



Act who are obviously appropriate recipients of this kind of measure within this legislation.

We felt those who were unemployed and who were in receipt of unemployment insurance benefits were facing sufficient difficulty in that period of unemployment, which can be very dislocating, very distressing and very disturbing, particularly for a family, and should be included within this. We felt very strongly that kind of circumstance was one that should be recognized.

Those who are in receipt of disability pensions, either at the public or the private level, were very significantly a part of our thinking in determining those who should never receive a bill beyond that which is covered by the OHIP level of benefit.

In addition, the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act provides for very specific assistance on the part of federal and provincial governments for the purpose of ensuring there is an improved acquisition of skills so the individual may become more self-supporting or entirely self-supporting. However, the primary purpose of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act is to assist that individual to become a whole human being with a feeling of self-worth and a capability of understanding that he or she has a role within society. Those individuals have very specific problems which are not easy to address in all circumstances, but their insecurity in that area should not be increased by the insecurity of not knowing whether they were going to be beneficiaries of this action within the legislation of Ontario.

In addition, there is a section which ensures that when the government of this province or the government of Canada determines there is another group or another individual who warrants assistance from the funds made available by taxpayers, it can determine by regulation that those individuals should automatically be included within the group to be listed within this segment of the bill that is before us.

We felt very strongly that in emergency situations where the individual has little opportunity to make a decision about whether he is going to seek medical or optometric services, and there are situations of that sort, the additional trauma or strain of the possibility of billing beyond the OHIP schedule of benefits was one that should not have to be endured.

It was felt, therefore, there should be this protection within this legislation, not just in those situations which we call emergencies because we recognize there is a fracture, a major laceration, an acute psychiatric disturbance or an eye injury,

but in those situations in which it is undesirable in terms of the ongoing health of the patient to delay treatment.

We have established the categories which have been listed in section 1 of our amendment. Those categories are comprehensive, and I believe they will reduce the incidence of accounts rendered to OHIP beyond the level of the OHIP schedule of benefits to something in the order of one per cent of the total number. That is a minuscule percentage of the total amount that is provided by the taxpayers of Ontario.

Many of us in this Legislature have had a great deal of communication from individuals who wish to have the freedom of choice of the physicians in this area maintained. Many of us who had the opportunity to hear the presentations of delegations within the standing committee on social development heard from a number of individuals who expressed very clearly their concerns that they believed the freedom which was being attacked in the current form of Bill 94 was inappropriate in a democratic society.

**6:10 p.m.**

The minister, unhappily, did not have the opportunity to hear all those. I recognize he had responsibilities elsewhere, but those of us who were there very frequently heard a great deal about this from individuals who were not physicians, optometrists or dentists. To recognize the concerns expressed very clearly by those individuals and those groups is a responsibility of the members of this Legislature. No matter what our ideological focus may be, we do have a responsibility to listen to those who have made presentations to us.

**An Hon. Member:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I would like to ask if you could call the members of the New Democratic Party to order.

**Mr. McClellan:** He is not in his seat.

**Mr. Laughren:** Is that where he sits?

**Mr. Chairman:** The member is not in his seat.

**An Hon. Member:** All right; I will move.

**Miss Stephenson:** I recognize the discomfort of the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy). The noise at that end of the House is at such a high level of decibels that it is extremely difficult to think, let alone hear what is going on.

The snide remarks of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) will not succeed in moving me from my desire to present to this Legislature and to the members on all sides of the House, including the member from Capreol—



**Hon. Mr. Nixon:** Nickel Belt.

**Miss Stephenson:** I know he is the member for Nickel Belt, but he is from Capreol, and that is an appropriate place to put him at this stage of the game. I know a couple of physicians in Capreol who would be delighted to deal with him.

The lists of exceptions we have developed do address the problem of the vast majority of difficulties that might arise related to the action of physicians or optometrists in billing at the level that is directed or guided by their professional association as a part of their ethical behaviour. Extra billing is a pejorative term, probably devised by the members of the New Democratic Party to ensure there was some kind of illegal or immoral attachment to that kind of description.

In fact, the actions of these physicians in most instances are to pursue the ethical direction provided for them by their profession. When it was determined and when they agreed—and they have agreed—that it might provide a problem for a significant number of people, they proposed a means of dealing with the problem for that significant number of people. The New Democratic Party fails to recognize that any action has been taken. Unhappily, that is a circumstance which does not usually lead to any resolution of problems.

There has been very significant movement and agreement that the kind of direction we are proposing in these amendments not only would solve the problem but also would lead to a solution that would ensure there was no continuation of confrontation and no maintenance of the kind of difficult circumstance in which many people find themselves within this province at this time.

Obviously, there are going to be exceptions to the rule. The exceptions that have been established within our amendments are very reasonable directions to pursue as well. The exception that probably could be most troublesome is the exception based upon ignorance, if one likes. There is no means at present, although one has been suggested on many occasions, of quietly and without any major kind of disruption assuring those individuals who would be in receipt of this kind of assurance that it could be made available so those who are responsible for delivering the services would not make the mistake of billing to the level of the professional fees in those circumstances.

It seems to me it is not impossible, as the province and governments have done for many

years, to provide a card which has an identifying number or mark or something that does not leap out and hit one between the eyes but which would ensure that those people who are dealing with those cards on a regular basis would be able to be positive they were not going to be billing beyond the level of the OHIP benefits for those who should benefit from this piece of legislation.

I urge the minister to think very seriously about the way in which this can be done. There seems to be no problem at all in the utilization of what is known as a drug benefit card. A drug benefit card is made available to many of those we have identified in the list we have provided, and this does not seem in any way to be demeaning to those who utilize those cards with some regularity.

I would doubt that any individual would find it particularly distressing personally to have one additional group of numbers attached to his OHIP card to ensure that the benefit outlined in our amendment would be available to him or to his family. Therefore, we feel very strongly that one of the exceptions should be if this does not happen, and the physician, optometrist or dentist, as a result of not knowing whether the individual should be a beneficiary of this amendment, bills beyond the level of the OHIP schedule of benefits, in that instance, we feel it should not be considered a criminal act or a violation of this act, but immediate correction of the action would resolve the problem rather than leaving the health practitioner with a record as a result of the action taken.

When the health practitioner, be he optometrist—I hope those in the House who are of the female gender will not worry about my use of the pronoun “he,” which I consider to be a generic pronoun since it applies to “man,” which is a generic noun and obviously, therefore, encompasses both genders. When the health practitioner has mistakenly sent or delivered an account beyond the level of the OHIP benefit to an individual who should be a beneficiary of this legislation, we have suggested the mistake be corrected forthwith by a payment by the physician to the patient of the amount by which the account has exceeded the OHIP level of benefit.

That is the appropriate means for solving this problem, rather than going through the bureaucratic maze that will be necessary with the suggestion I believe the minister has made, that retribution would occur as a result of withholding amounts of money from the next payment to the physician. If it takes the usual length of time to provide the funds, the individual patient who is



so reimbursed may wait for several weeks, and at times months, before that restitution is provided by the government.

We feel this immediate form of ensuring that the individual patient who has mistakenly been charged at a level beyond the OHIP level of benefits is reimbursed is a much more appropriate means of dealing with a situation that can arise relatively easily unless a step is taken to provide some quiet means of identification of those who should receive this benefit regularly as a result of this legislation.

**6:20 p.m.**

The fourth part of our amendment to section 2 ensures that when the individual patient who is to receive service from an opted-out physician is to be billed at a level that is beyond the OHIP level of benefits, reasonable prior information must be provided to that patient. Most of the complaints we have heard about the lack of or the difficulty with prior notification have been in the area of anaesthesiology, where the individual admitted to hospital is informed by the anaesthetist the night before or on the morning of the surgery that his level of account is beyond the OHIP level of benefit.

We have provided a means to ensure there will be adequate prior notice so that if there is a problem, the patient may ask his or her family physician to make other arrangements in order that the problem will not exist. It is one of the responsibilities of the physician who assumes responsibility for the primary care of a family to ensure that this kind of situation, which might be embarrassing or difficult for a family or its members, does not arise.

I can tell the members truthfully that this action is taken by a very large number of very responsible family physicians in this province, who ensure through their communications with their patients and with their colleagues that if no account should be rendered beyond the level of the OHIP benefit, it simply does not happen. In all circumstances the co-operation of consultants, anaesthetists and any of those who are involved in providing additional health care services has been outstanding.

I can honestly say that in all the years I have practised, I have never been refused that consideration for my patients when it was appropriate and necessary, and I have never hesitated to ask. I know most of my colleagues do precisely that. There are some who do not at present. I believe they do not do it because they have not been informed sufficiently of the difficulties that may arise as a result of the

inappropriate action of the specialist or consultant to whom the patient has been referred. That is a responsibility the medical profession must undertake, and one I know it can undertake and achieve, given the right motivation to do so.

I feel strongly that there will not be the kind of professional motivation to pursue the courses of excellence in the development of health care that have been a hallmark of the system in Ontario unless we move in this direction, unless we move to ensure that some vestige of freedom is left for the profession to make choices and that there is no ruling which ensures that there is, in the words being used by many of my colleagues, "conscription of the medical profession" into a relationship significantly different from that which has traditionally been part of their practice function, a relationship that ensures there is never any responsibility on the part of the patient in terms of the remuneration of the health professional.

I do not think I can overemphasize the need to have within a health care system those who are delivering the service highly motivated, satisfied in their relationships with the others who are involved in health care, concerned about their continuing relationship with their patients and concerned about the further development of the health care system. I do not believe a profession that is totally subjugated by legislation such as Bill 94 is going to be capable of proceeding in the directions that will continue to maintain the high quality of health care we have enjoyed in Ontario.

This amendment is similar in some instances to that put forward by my friend the member for Humber, but with some differences—some additions and some deletions—and with some different means of recourse in terms of the provision of action to ensure that patients are not disadvantaged in any way. Unless we pursue this type of amendment, we shall have a health care system that will not be maintained at the level we think is appropriate in this province.

Therefore, I feel very strongly that through these amendments, we have given the members of this House an opportunity not to reconsider but to consider the course of action they are about to take. They must consider whether they want to ensure that one of our major priorities is the quality of research done by family physicians in Ontario and carried out by practising consultants in Ontario, and the quality of health care research that has made us world leaders in a considerable number of areas in the delivery of health care through medicine in this province.



It is all very well for those who have never functioned in a role that is governed by a professional self-government to be unaware of the attitudes and the sense of responsibility engendered in the vast majority of the members of the profession who are within that situation. I have no doubt that those who have not been subjected to the continuing example and lectures of many of the teachers whom I enjoyed when I was a student, and whom many of the medical students are enjoying at this time, will not truly understand that the primary responsibility of any professional is directly to the patient in all circumstances. Any disruption of that understanding of the relationship is one that ensures there will be some disturbance within the process which is not likely to be of great benefit either to the patients who will be served or to the system wherein the patients are served.

I remind the members of this House that the structure of the health care insurance plan in this province has been based upon freedom for the individual patient to make choices and freedom—

**Mr. D. S. Cooke:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I point out that this is day three of the debate. Thanks to the Conservative Party, patients have been billed \$600,000 which they will never recover.

**Mr. Chairman:** That is not a point of order.

**Miss Stephenson:** It is interesting that the member for Windsor-Riverside continues on a daily basis to spout a figure that is not an

agreed-upon figure. I am informed by members of the Department of National Health and Welfare that the assumptions upon which that figure is based are considerably out of whack and probably quite erroneous and that the amount of money being talked about is considerably less.

The members of this House should be aware of the fact that what they are proposing to do is to ensure that there will be a profession primarily responsible for the delivery of health care which could be maintained in its present productive, energetic, enthusiastic and very helpful stance to the Ontario government if the amendments that have been proposed by my colleague the member for Lincoln are accepted. If we pursue another direction, I hesitate to make predictions about the dire straits in which the future of the health care system in this province will find itself.

**Mr. Andrewes:** I rise to correct the record before we adjourn. As I read this amendment, the third line of subsection 2(1) reads “under section 21,” and then I read “or 11,” which should be “22.” If you go to the second and third lines of subsection 4, which reads “directly to the plan under section 21,” I then read “or 11,” which should be “22.”

**Mr. Chairman:** Members will amend their copies as such.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Elston, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House adjourned at 6:31 p.m.



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Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)  
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)  
Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)  
Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Orillia L)  
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)  
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)  
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)  
Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)  
Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)  
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)  
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Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)  
Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)  
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Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Minister of Financial Institutions (Wilson Heights L)  
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Leluk, N. G. (York West PC)  
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McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)  
McKessock, R. (Grey L)  
Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House and Acting Speaker (Carleton East L)  
Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)  
O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)  
Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)  
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)  
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Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Oxford PC)  
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)  
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)



























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